



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Shops See Ashtray Law As a Pain in The Butt

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

Are there too many cigarette butts on 24th Street?

Definitely, say Noe Valley merchants. But the neighborhood's shopkeepers are choking over the city's proposed solution to the problem: a new ordinance that calls for virtually all San Francisco offices, stores, bars, and cafes to put ashtrays outside their businesses.

The "Kick Butts" legislation, sponsored by Supervisor Mabel Teng, was passed by the Board of Supervisors on Aug. 2, and Willie Brown had 30 days to sign it. (The vote was 8 to 3, with supervisors Mark Leno, Gavin Newsom, and Leland Yee dissenting.)

The measure requires all businesses that have employees or patrons who smoke to provide ashtrays outside the entrances and exits of their buildings.

Teng says she introduced the legislation in response to complaints that people were "'litter-ally' tripping over mounds of cigarette butts left outside of buildings where smoking is banned." According to Teng's office, the Department of Public Works has reported a tenfold increase in the amount of cigarette butts on city streets since January 1998.

"Complaints about unsightly mounds of cigarette and cigar butts sprawled on sidewalks are on the rise all over the city," Teng says. "While we certainly don't want to encourage anyone to smoke, we must give those who do smoke an alternative to littering."

Still, members of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association see the ordinance as a "knee-jerk reaction," as Carol Yenne, owner of Small Frys, puts it. "We all understand it's a problem," she says, "but I think we need a more thoughtful, aesthetically pleasing approach."

Boychik Goes to Dog Heaven

By Voice Staff

On Aug. 11, the *Noe Valley Voice* bade a fond farewell to "Boychik" Smith-Yagudin, a brindle boxer who was the newspaper's mascot for more than a decade. He was 10½ years old.

"Boychik slobbered excessively and knocked a few people over in his time (sorry, Lindy), but he really couldn't help it," said *Voice* copublisher Jack Tipple. "He was a lap dog in a big dog's body."

Boychik was born Oct. 1, 1988, and adopted as a six-week-old puppy by musician Misha Yagudin and *Voice* copublisher and editor Sally Smith. His name means "Little Boy" in Russian, but at the age of 1 he already weighed 85 pounds.

Although he never learned to read, he



The Dubliner bar will continue to accommodate its outdoor smokers, but most other Noe Valley businesses plan to ignore the city's request to put out ashtrays. Photo by Beverly Thorp

At a meeting in late July, the Merchants Association voted unanimously against adoption of the measure.

"Many of us don't support smoking," says attorney Robert Roddick, who is president of the association. "This law encourages smoking in front of businesses. Who wants 300 ashtrays along the 24th

Street corridor? People who smoke should pick up their own butts. This ordinance is ordering me to spend money or I get in trouble."

(Teng says the cost of a freestanding ashtray could be as little as \$20 and that

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Digital Parking Meters to Arrive in Noe Next Year

They'll Take Nickels and Dimes and Plastic

By Steve Steinberg

This ever happen to you? After driving around the block for 10 minutes, you suddenly spot the perfect parking space on 24th Street. You glide your car into the space and jump out to put money in the meter. Then you discover while picking through your change that you don't have a quarter, *the only coin the 24th Street parking meters will take.*

Frantically, you run into a store to get change for a dollar, praying you won't get a \$25 ticket during the few seconds you're gone. Then you see the Cushman chugging down the street. You race back to your car, your heart pounding. As you open the door, an SUV pulls up, honks, and asks if you're leaving.

Well, maybe you don't need to shop today. Maybe you'll just go home, take a nice long bath, and come back tomorrow with a bag full of quarters. You start up the motor and drive dejectedly away.

If this sounds familiar, you will be glad to know that relief is in sight: Early next year, the San Francisco Department of Parking and Traffic will start installing 23,000 electric parking meters in city neighborhoods, including Noe Valley.

The new meters will accept nickels and dimes in addition to quarters. And according to DPT director Stuart Sunshine, the electronic meters—which have a digital readout instead of the old wind-up tickers—will also take prepaid debit cards.

Sunshine says the department has been field-testing the new meters in West Portal, Chinatown, and the Castro for the past two years. He estimates that installation in other neighborhoods will begin in Jan-

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could speak. In a "More Muzzles to Feed" column in the 1993 April Fool's *Voice*, his parents claimed that his first words were "ground chuck." In another April Fool's edition (1991), he masqueraded as the owner of a pet store, boasting that he'd "have a sale on those exotic birds.... They make real good squeak toys."

Boychik originally lived with his dad on Foerster Street (off Monterey), but moved to Sally's flat at 27th and Sanchez about seven years ago. He felt more at home in Noe Valley, maybe because he got "skunked" twice at Sunnyside Park.

On 24th Street, he visited the Animal Company almost before he could walk, triggering a lifelong addiction to those beef jerky sticks handed out by the owners. Another favorite spot was the Holey Bagel (now Manhattan). He loved bagels.

But by the '90s he'd gotten tired of the

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"Boychik" died in August after 10 years as a stringer on the *Voice* staff. He's shown here in 1994 doing Dog on the Street interviews at Christopher Park in Diamond Heights. Photo by Sally Smith



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LETTERS 33¢

Secret Garden at the Library

Editor:

The garden surrounding the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library on Jersey Street is indeed one of the mystery secret places in Noe Valley ["Where to Find a Quiet Spot for Contemplation," July/August 1999 *Voice*]. Many people who came to the Open Garden Day in May said they never knew the library garden was just beyond the door in the children's section.

The 12 gardeners work hard to make it a place of peace and relaxation for all library patrons and residents of Noe Valley. Thanks for the mention and for the reminder to visitors to remove their trash. But first, stop and "smell the roses."

Eleanore Gerhardt
24th Street

Stores Show In-scents-ativity

Editor:

I wonder about the insensitivity of those stores on 24th Street that exude strong scents (incense? soap?) out their front doors.

Do they realize—or care—that some people may find it offensive? The store Glad Rags comes first to mind.

Chuck Carroll
30th Street

Buy Your Breast Cancer Stamps Here

Editor:

We would like to thank our Noe Valley Post Office customers for their generous breast cancer stamp purchases for the past year ["Breast Cancer Stamp a Best Seller in Noe Valley," April 1999].

The Noe Valley Post Office has been number one in sales for most of the past year. We are very proud of the community. It has been fun to be tops in the San Francisco Post Office District, from Eureka to Sunnyvale.

The breast cancer stamp will be on sale through July 2000, but our current fiscal year ends Sept. 10, 1999. It would be nice to end this year still number one. So we hope to see you at the post office by Sept. 10! Thanks again.

Nora, Rich, Adele, Vivian, Lillie,
Bill, Ken, and Yvonne
The "window clerks"
Noe Valley Post Office

Should the City Check Roommates' Credentials?

Editor:

At a recent supervisors' meeting on "roommate" legislation, the question arose as to what grounds a homeowner could use to deny occupancy to a replacement roommate in his or her home.

Supervisor Mark Leno brought up the case of an anti-gay Christian who wanted to move into a home occupied by gay men. The San Francisco Rent Board representative said that a hearing would be required and that the board would be "sensitive" to homophobia issues. Everyone seemed pleased with that answer.

I assume they would discriminate against the Christian? As a gay man, I wonder how the rent board would rule if I attempted to move into the home of a fundamentalist Christian? Would they discriminate against me, too?

Or do we reserve this discrimination only for those who are not politically, religiously, or otherwise to our liking?

At the hearing, Supervisor Michael Yaki suggested that perhaps the rent board should not be making such decisions within owner-occupied homes. But he was soundly defeated.

Bill Trumbo
Church Street

Voice Mail

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail to jaxvoice@aol.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) You can also send us mail via our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com. There you'll find current stories and Class Ads, and archives of past issues dating from December 1996.

Looking for Gentle Brothers and Sisters

Editor:

I am working on my dissertation of research on Piña Palmera, a community-based rehabilitation project in Oaxaca, Mexico, begun by Frank Douglas and his associates. I am searching for more background information on him, his life and studies with Sri Aurobindo, and his experiences with the Gentle Brothers and Sisters. I'd appreciate hearing from any San Francisco residents who would like to share their memories. Thanks.

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Shops to Smokers: Pick up Your Butts

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a bucket with sand would be acceptable.)

Although it seems unlikely that Mayor Brown will veto the ordinance, Roddick is sending him a letter explaining the group's opposition.

"I won't put an ashtray out," says Roddick, whose law office is on Castro near 24th Street. "People sit on my stoop, smoking, drinking coffee, and eating snacks. I tell them to take their garbage with them. What DPW is complaining about wasn't created by merchants. The supervisors really didn't think this law through."

Supervisor Mark Leno, a small business owner and resident of Noe Valley for 18 years, concurs.

"I don't think we need any additional unnecessary laws on the books," he says. "Merchants and property owners are already required to keep their area clear of trash and debris. This is yet another act, but it's not going to cure the problem."

Leno is also concerned about the potential for vandalism. "People could come by and knock the ashtrays over, and then we'd have an even bigger mess," he says, noting that he won't be placing an ashtray in front of Budget Signs, the South of Market business he owns.

"If the law is followed, everyone will have an ashtray," he says. "There will be a landscape of ashtrays, and I don't think that's reasonable or desirable. We need to enforce the laws we already have."

Most Noe Valley merchants know that the rise in cigarette butts is due to the strict state law, enacted a year and a half ago, that bans indoor smoking everywhere but people's homes.

In the past, smokers stayed inside and used ashtrays supplied by the business. But now that smoking in bars, offices, and restaurants is prohibited, people light up outside, usually near a building's entrance.

However, Teng thinks the businesses should still take care of the fallout. "The city requires any establishment that sells food to maintain trash bins outside their premises," she says. "Similarly, a business that has employees or customers

who smoke should be required to provide ashtrays in order to minimize litter."

Both Teng's office and the Department of Public Works have stated that the ordinance will be implemented "with great flexibility." Businesses will first be asked to cooperate, then given a warning. Only if the warning fails will they be issued a ticket. (Fines range from \$25 to \$100.) Shops will also have leeway in choosing the size, type, and location of the ashtrays.

'If You Smoke, Don't Be a Pig'

The new ordinance does have its supporters. William "Metz" Metzler, a dental hygienist at the offices of Dr. Kinney and Dr. Savio on 24th Street, sweeps up the pile of butts in front of his office every morning before he starts work.

"Businesses *should* get ashtrays," he says. But he also believes smokers should be more considerate.

"People sit on our steps and grind cigarettes into the ground," Metzler says. "If they want to smoke, that's their business. I'm not against smoking. It's just, will they please throw the butts in the street so the street sweeper can pick them up, and not drop them on the sidewalk or our steps? It's rude."

Wayne Basso, owner of Noe's Bar, plans to purchase an outdoor ashtray soon.

"There are lots of butts around," he admits. "If I need to get an ashtray for outside and it costs a few bucks, who cares? I hate a dirty sidewalk, and I know the bars are the main culprit for cigarette butts."

Storm Large, a bartender at the Rat & Raven, says she has mentioned the new ordinance to her manager and they plan to comply when they get official notice from the Board of Supervisors. Still, she's not pleased with the law.

"It's just one more thing to worry about," she says. "We're not here to police people's habits. If you smoke, don't be a pig. That's common sense. Throw away your cigarette. Don't leave it on the ground. The responsibility lies with the patrons who smoke, but the bar has the potential to get fined."

Although Mayor Brown has not yet signed the ordinance into law, a spot-check along 24th Street in August turned up a few establishments that were already providing ash cans at their entrance.

Both the Dubliner and the Rover's Inn,

two bars owned by Vince Hogan, have ashtrays, as does Tully's coffee store next door to Bell. But according to Loretta Green, Tully's manager, it has nothing to do with the ordinance. "We've had an ashtray outside forever, even when we were Spinelli's."

Green says she and other employees sweep up several times a day, to get rid of litter generated by those who "stand outside, smoke, and throw their butts on the sidewalk."

"It's especially bad in the morning when I get to work—from all the bars the night before," she adds. "Every morning, there are lots of butts. But most of our customers are conscientious and into the environment, so if they smoke they sit near our ashtray."

"There are cigarette butts outside our store all the time," agrees Carrie Secretario, a supervisor at Starbucks across the street. "Coffee and cigarettes go hand in hand. It's always been a problem. People just step on a cigarette and leave, even though we have a garbage can out front."

She and other employees sweep the doorway and the sidewalk frequently, she says, noting that Starbucks' corporate policy requires employees to bus tables and sweep outside every 10 minutes.

Still, she's not sure if the store will want to put out an ashtray. "Then it looks like Starbucks is promoting smoking," she says.

Trees Are Not Ashtrays

Secretario says that in early August Herb's Fine Foods placed a sign on a newly planted tree in front of the restaurant, stating, "This tree is not an ashtray." Within a few days, the sign was removed, but the problem still exists. As the *Voice* left Starbucks after talking to Secretario, a man stood near the tree, smoking a cigarette and dropping ashes onto the bark chips that surrounded the tree's roots.

Linda Jweinat, manager of Panetti's, wishes smokers would spare the trees, too.

"I pull cigarettes out of the two planters in front of the store and under our tree all the time," says Jweinat. "It's disgusting. But an ashtray in front of our store would not be in keeping with the ambiance. I'd hate to have it. I could see if they had an ashtray at the end of every block or if they strapped them onto the existing garbage receptacles, but not in every merchant's doorway."

Small Frys' Carol Yenne mentioned a similar solution: "I was at a resort on vacation and saw a garbage can with an ashtray on top of it. That might work. This law might be fine for the office buildings downtown, where there are gobs of cigarettes, but in a neighborhood like Noe Valley it doesn't seem necessary. The DPW should work on enforcing the existing laws and make sure merchants keep their sidewalks washed down."

Yenne says she sweeps daily and gets her sidewalks steam-cleaned quarterly. "It costs me a hundred dollars a year," she says.

Lisa Moro, manager of Gallery of Jewels at 24th and Castro, also wonders whose butts are getting kicked. "We get excessive cigarette butts here because we're right near a bus stop. People still litter even if there's a trash can right in front of them. It's not fair to make it mandatory that businesses have an ashtray. We sweep regularly. We also steam-clean the sidewalk. I never throw stuff on the street."

And besides, she says, "This law isn't going to help. It won't do anything. It's just one more law." □



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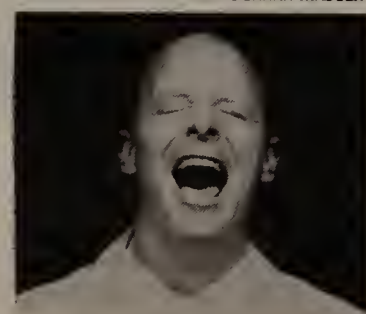
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New E-Meters Take Nickels And Dimes

Continued from Page 1

uary or February. (Traffic engineer Bond Yee, who is directly involved in the project, points out that the next neighborhood in line will be the one whose merchants and residents lobby the hardest.)

So far, the e-meters have proved to be a boon to the city, Sunshine says. "We've seen a revenue increase of 90 percent in some of the test areas." He also notes that vandals and thieves are less likely to tamper with the new machines because of their special key system.

The mandate for the nickel-and-dime meters stems from a vote of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, taken in October of 1995. That vote came during a heated campaign over Proposition H, which had been placed on the ballot by residents who were angry that the city had done away with nickel-and-dime meters two years before. Proposition H would have forced the city to reinstall the old meters and reduce the parking fines, plus completely abolish the Department of Parking and Traffic.

Persuaded by opposition arguments that the measure would deplete city coffers as well as create even more traffic and parking congestion, voters defeated Prop. H. However, the city got the message and ordered Parking and Traffic to make sure the new electronic meters accepted small coins.

Why has it taken so long to accomplish the switch? Sunshine deflects that question by saying that he takes no responsibility for the delays caused by his predecessors—of whom there have been three since 1995.

His goal now is to make the new meters user-friendly. To that end, he plans to consult with neighborhood residents to determine how much parking time the meters should allow and how much money that time should cost. His hunch is that initially the cost of parking at a Noe Valley meter would be about the same as it is in the Castro and West Portal test areas: a nickel for 6 minutes, a dime for 12, and a quarter for 30 minutes.

As for the debit cards, Sunshine envisions drivers being able to purchase cards with a value of up to \$25. They would be sold, he says, in libraries, banks, and wherever Muni Fast Passes are available.

And what do folks in Noe Valley think of the new multi-coin meters?

"Sounds like a good idea to me," says Peggy, a 22nd Street resident. "Lots of time you have change, but no quarters." Peggy says she probably wouldn't bother to use the debit cards, though.

Kevin, a Diamond Heights resident who used to live in Noe Valley and still considers it his "real" neighborhood, thinks the city should stick with the quarters-only meters.

"I've gotten used to using quarters, and besides the city needs the money," Kevin says. He also predicts that even if the city sets the meters to accept nickels and dimes, "they'll change back in five years."

Local merchants have a mix of opinions about the meter changes.

"Five- and ten-cent meters are a fabulous idea," says Ron Wilson, manager of Real Food Company at 3939 24th St. "They allow people to go in and out of a store for a few minutes." He sees the debit cards as counterproductive, however. "They would give people too much money to play with when it comes to parking, and slow down the turnover rate."

But Glen Potter, owner of Accent on Flowers on 24th near Castro, likes the idea of converting to debit cards. "It

would mean the city wouldn't have to collect and count coins all day."

Although Potter thinks multi-coin meters are also a good idea, "for when you run out of quarters," he is quite content with the present quarters-only system, since he believes it brings in much-needed revenue for the city.

Tom Maravilla, co-owner of Mikeytom Market at Church and Day streets, says he's not sure the debit cards would prove cost-effective or alleviate the parking situation. But Maravilla thinks the nickel-and-dime meters are "the right thing to do," he says. "Not having a quarter is not finding parking." And not finding a parking space often means you can't shop at your favorite store, he adds.

Meanwhile, Robert Roddick, president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, thinks we should be talking less about coins and more about changing the time limits on the meters. He favors a combination of half-hour and two-hour parking meters in Noe Valley. The long-term meters would "make it a heck of a lot easier for shoppers," Roddick says.

The last person the *Voice* interviewed for this story was Suzette Odlozil, owner of the French Tulip flower shop.

"Why didn't they just leave the old [nickel and dime] ones?" asked Odlozil, when approached at the corner of 24th and Sanchez. "I hate that the meters only take quarters. I never have a quarter. But now that we're stuck with them, I think they should leave them alone."

Then Odlozil, who had just parked her car at a meter on Sanchez, had to run off. "I have to go find a quarter," she said in an exasperated tone. □

Bye-Bye, Boychik

Continued from Page 1

noise and hubbub on 24th Street, and he avoided the strip unless he heard about a Mutts March.

When walking up Sanchez from 27th to Downtown Noe Valley, he'd accelerate at Jersey, dragging Sally "Stiff-Arm" Smith straight across 24th Street to Elizabeth, where there were a few choice trees. Then he'd forge ahead to the *Voice* office in the Noe Valley Ministry. "He'd insist upon going in, but once he was in, he'd rather go out," said Sally. "He was very social, but not a good journalist."

In his middle years, he enjoyed going to Upper Noe Recreation Center, where he hoped to meet a girl, a boy, ... somebody. "He was quite a hunk," said Misha, pointing out Boychik's dark eyes and white paws. "But he died a virgin."

"Maybe that had to do with the drooling problem," noted Sally.

After checking out Upper Noe field, he'd head for the dog water bowl at Mikeytom Market on Church Street. Tom and the rest of the gang always had a biscuit ready, and even hosed him down on hot days. Along Church Street, Boychik would stop off to see Trudee at Key Kraft and Mia at Mia's Flowers. He might also visit Speckmann's Delicatessen and ask if he could bring home the bacon.

Another hangout was Chloe's Cafe, especially if Vera was waiting tables. He was fond of the median strip along Dolores Street ("Oooh, palm trees!"), and was once personally thanked by a city gardener for training his owners — er, guardians—to pick up his litter there.

Nearly all his forays led back to the hill on 27th, where he'd run up the steps at Preston and David's house, hoping to catch a glimpse of Lucy, their beloved bulldog (may she rest in peace). Closer to home, he'd stop to get a super-scratch from neighbors Mary and Larry.

Many people volunteered to babysit



Boychik slobbered when he got excited—in this case, there was a girl dog in the house—but he had a winning grin. Photo by Sally Smith

Boychik. Some twice. His best friends were Victoria of Hoffman Avenue, who gave him his prized stuffed bear and the liver biscotti; Karol of Sanchez Street, who promised he'd get to meet her cat Esmé one day; his longtime patron Rayne "I Am My Dogs' Mom" Wolfe; his pal Nina, who works at Rose Quartz; and Helen of Blair Terrace, who once let Boychik sit on her lap and kiss her on the lips.

Like all animals, he loved the Pigeon Lady of Sanchez Street (June 1997 *Voice*), who carried dog treats in her pockets along with the birdseed. He also lapped up any attention he got from Jim, Doug, and Elliot of the *Voice* staff.

And he appreciated *Voice* ad manager Steve Steinberg for telling him about Advantage, the antiflea product used by Steve's cocker spaniel, Mitzi. "Advantage changed my life," Boychik said.

It changed his owners' lives, too. "After he got rid of the fleas, he insisted on sleeping on the bed," said Sally. "Still, he was never deliberately bad. He never ran away. Never chewed a slipper. Never whined or barked obnoxiously. And he never bit anyone, even though he probably wanted to."

About four months ago, he was diagnosed with melanoma, which progressed despite surgery and other treatments.

During his last couple of days in August, he visited with friends, played with all his toys, and was allowed to completely shred a plastic 49ers Nerf ball. He slept on the couch in front of the TV with an actual pillow under his head; had his

fur brushed and blow-dried; nuzzled with Bonnie Jean, the cute little sheltie collie with the slight overbite; and ate part of a Whopper and fries from Burger King.

He was even allowed to eat chocolate (ano-no for dogs). It seemed to revive Boychik, who wagged his tail and smelled the air out the car window all the way to see Dr. Rick at Avenues Pet Hospital.

Inside the vet's, he was chipper till the end. Sally recalled, "The last thing I said to Boychik as I led him down the hall to Dr. Rick was 'You've been a good dog. I love you (sob).' To which he replied, 'Gee, Mom, get a life.' Then he ran toward the Light.... Or maybe it was the female Rottweiler in the next room."

Perhaps he thought he'd finally gotten lucky.

Bye-bye, Boy. We'll miss you. □

Special thanks to Rayne Wolfe and all Boychik's friends for helping with this story.—Sally Smith



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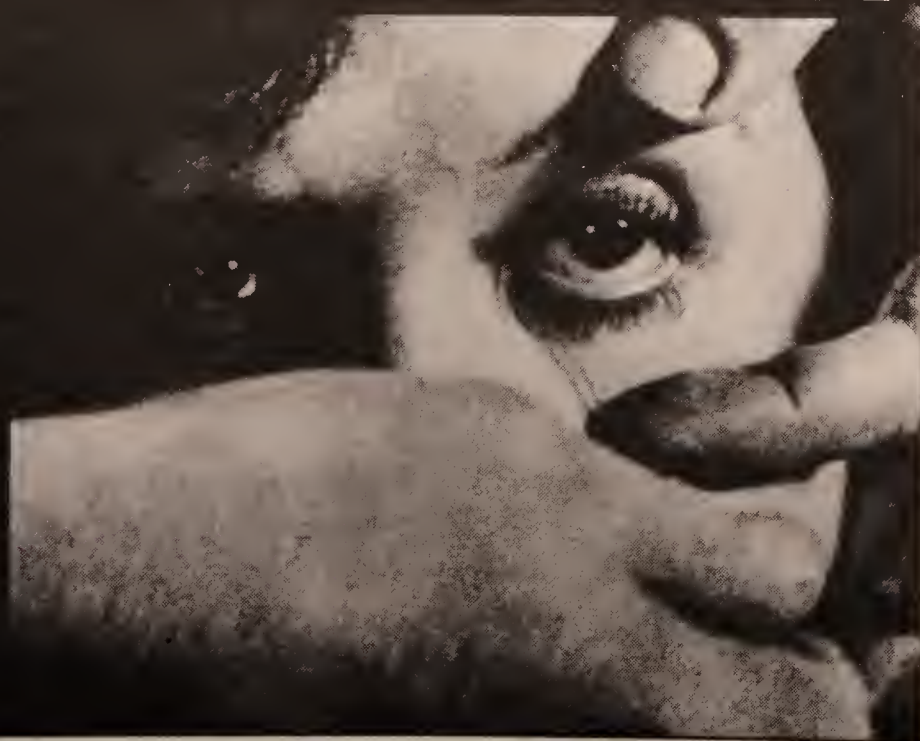
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Dogs Bound for Glory: When the dust settled at a packed meeting of the Upper Noe Neighbors on July 22, the dogs had carried the day. A majority of the 70 humans in attendance had voted to support off-leash hours at Day Street Park, the playing field at Upper Noe Recreation Center. Specifically, says group president Vicki Rosen, the UNN is recommending that dogs be allowed to run off leash from 6 to 9 a.m., and from 6 p.m. to closing. But only if pet owners are scrupulous about picking up their litter. "We're also suggesting that people take their dogs for a walk and do their duty *before* coming to the park," she adds. The group is forming a cleanup committee, too (call 285-0473). Rosen acknowledges that some park users left the meeting feeling miffed about the vote, but she points out, "Our resolution was a fair compromise and a good exercise in people living and working together. Nothing ever gets solved if you can't compromise." The Neighbors' next step is to get the deal approved by Rec and Park—no small task since the city rarely makes changes that favor canines over children. Till they get free rein, dogs should abide by the rules: Wear your leash, pal.

Photo by Beverly Tharp

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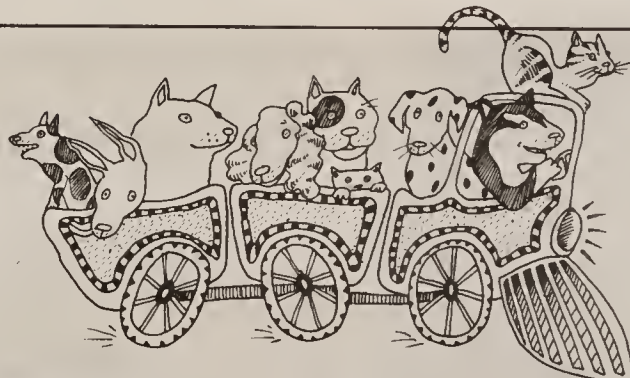
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POLICE BEAT

Con Man Busted For Drugs

By Officer Lois Perillo

The 44-year-old man suspected of conning dozens of residents throughout the Mission, Noe Valley, Bernal Heights, and Ingleside districts (and burglarizing two others) was arrested for felony drug possession on Tuesday, July 20, at 5:17 p.m., after officers saw him buy heroin.

Officers Brian Philpott and Jacob Fegan were an hour into their shift as they drove their marked patrol car on South Van Ness and 24th Street and spotted Joseph Lawrence (a.k.a. Jim the Con Man) hand money to Oscar Ramos, who in turn gave him a small black object. When Lawrence and Ramos saw the patrol car, they split up and walked away. But the two men did not get far.

While Officer Philpott detained Ramos, Officer Fegan hailed Lawrence and saw him drop the black object to the ground. When Officer Fegan checked the object, he saw that it was a black substance wrapped in plastic which looked suspiciously like heroin. The substance was later tested and proved to be the drug.

Both men were taken into custody. Ramos was charged with selling illegal drugs, and Lawrence was booked on drug possession. Both charges are felonies. Upon conviction, the first carries a sentence of three to five years. The second may result in a fine or community service, if probation is granted, or if not, up to a year-in county or state prison.

Guns Used in Robberies

In a very disturbing incident on Friday, June 4, at 11:15 p.m., two men in their 30s were targeted by a man in his early 20s who robbed them at gunpoint after following them into the entrance of an apartment building before the lobby door could close and lock. The suspect, who was wearing a black ski cap and bandanna over his mouth, ordered the men to turn over their wallets. He then ordered them to the ground before fleeing from the 400 block of Fair Oaks Street.

On Thursday, June 15, at 3:44 a.m., a store on the 3800 block of 24th Street was robbed by a man in his 40s who brandished what appeared to be a sawed-off shotgun. The suspect demanded cash from the 31-year-old store worker before he fled in a white Chevrolet Astro van with red lettering. Although Officer Martha Juarez determined that the suspect left his fingerprints behind when he touched the counter, the workers said they were unable to secure the area while awaiting the crime lab people, so no evidence was collected.

Homeless Man Ripped Off

In the only reported robbery in July, a 46-year-old homeless man who frequents the 21st and Chattanooga Street Muni bus shelter reported that he was robbed by two panhandlers who normally hang out on 24th Street. The man said he was sleeping within the shelter on Sunday, July 4, at 7:50 a.m., when he was awakened by the suspects.

The 39-year-old suspect (the shorter of the two) directed his 34-year-old brother to grab the man's grocery bag. When the sleeper sat up, the shorter suspect said he was an "L.A. cop and bounty hunter," and threatened to "slice up" the homeless man, who attempted to retrieve his gro-

ceries but was pushed away by the shorter suspect. The two suspects then fled.

Meanwhile, Officer Raphael Labutan detained the suspects at 22nd and Church streets. The homeless man identified them, and they were taken into custody and booked. However, before the victim arrived at the inspector's bureau to give his statement, the suspects had been released. Evidently, the district attorney declined to file on the case at this time.

As a footnote to this incident, on Wednesday, Aug. 18, at about 8:20 p.m., I arrested the 39-year-old, on the 3900 block of 24th Street, for an outstanding parole violation warrant.

2 x 13 = 26 Unlucky Car Owners

There were six burglaries in Noe Valley during June, matching May's count. They involved three apartments, two homes, and one store.

The tally rose to eight in July, with five houses, two apartments, one garage, and one store reporting break-ins.

There were also 13 auto boosts within my area of Noe Valley in June and another 13 in July, with one arrest in each month.

On Thursday, July 15, at 1:30 a.m., a 44-year-old man made a citizen's arrest on a 36-year-old who had broken into his truck on the 3500 block of 23rd Street. While awaiting the police, the truck owner restrained the suspect, who pleaded to be released, saying, "Come on, man. They're going to give me 25 years for this. Let me go."

The truck owner held the man until officers Paul Yamamoto and Mark Stull arrived and took custody of him. The officers found that the suspect was on parole, and he was booked on felony auto burglary, with a "parole hold." The D.A. dismissed the local charge, but the suspect was sent to San Quentin, pending a parole violation hearing.

A Simple Fender-Bender at Bell?

In one of her last acts as a patrol officer within the Mission District before receiving her promotion to inspector, Officer Stephanie White went to Bell Market on 24th Street on Saturday, June 19, at 1:30 p.m., to tend to a minor auto accident. What should have been a straightforward job of assisting the drivers turned into much more when Officer White found that one of the drivers had no driver's license, his vehicle wasn't registered, and the license plate on his car had a number registered to another vehicle.

Officer White seized the plate, cited the driver, towed his car, and made sure both drivers exchanged the proper information. Just shows there are no simple fender-benders.

Congratulations to Inspector White, who not only said goodbye to Mission Station but to the day shift as well. She is now assigned to Night Investigations.

Also, congratulations to Kevin Cashman, who left Mission Station as one of our day-watch lieutenants when he was promoted to captain and transferred to Narcotics.

Until next month, let's continue to watch out for one another, and I'll see you on patrol. □

SFPD Officer Lois Perillo covers a beat that runs from Valencia to Grand View and 21st to Cesar Chavez. You can reach her at Mission Station at 415-558-5404.

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Pregnant or Not, The Show Must Go On for Kim Porter

By Kathryn Guta

In the dark, predawn hours of March, solo performer Kim Porter, 34, found herself clutching an application and waiting in front of the Exit Theater in the Tenderloin District. She had given up the comfort of her Noe Valley bed, braved the cold, and even witnessed the nocturnal meanderings of rats on Eddy Street—all in the hopes of being among the first 30 entrants in the popular avant-garde San Francisco Fringe Festival.

The strategy worked, and she was chosen to give one of the festival's 250 hour-long performances on five stages in four theaters (all downtown and within walking distance of the Exit).

Now all she has to do is perform, even though she will be seven months pregnant when the lights come up on "Knock on Wood," her one-woman show playing at Il Teatro from Sept. 9 to 19.

Although she will be great with child, Porter says she has not given Baby X a role in her Fringe comedy. "And none of the characters I bring to life are in fact *knocked-up*," she jokes. Instead, the work speaks to an earlier time in her life when she developed a compulsive habit of knocking on wood whenever a negative thought entered the stormy atmosphere of her young and humid consciousness.

"Everyone knows that pride goeth before the fall," she says. "And nobody likes a show-off," especially not god(s) with a capital G.

Her 23-year-old mind reasoned that the best way to deflect the random irony of the universe was to beat it to the punch. Worry and negativity became talismans against all the bad things that can happen to a person, like being run over by an ambulance or struck by lightning. In a vain attempt to neutralize the evil messages, she knocked on wood constantly, soon developing a bruising 200-knock-a-day habit.

Although Porter never imagined herself to be a champion of New Age beliefs, her performance piece shows the way out of the morass of obsessive thought and toward an acceptance of oneself.

"I finally had filled up my mind with every possible worry in the book, and I broke open like a vessel," she recalls. "I realized I had become my own worst enemy as well as a desperate people-pleaser, so I decided to be my own best friend. After all, what held me down were only my own thoughts."

Porter found her new self-esteem just in time to have it tested at the hands of casting agents with rigid ideas of what an actor could or could not do. She admits it was demoralizing to be overlooked for acting jobs because she weighed too much or, at 25, was either too old or too young for most parts. Solo performing proved to be a perfect match for her writing and acting talents. "Now I can work, no matter how old I am or how I look, even if I'm pregnant."

Growing up in Texas at a time when suburban sprawl had begun to shrink the cotton fields back home, Porter says her work is rooted in the windblown landscape of her early life: tornadoes, cowboys, rattlesnakes. Her father was a hippie drug addict with a stinging wit. "I had to be funny to fight against his cruelty."

Her older sister, Jean, fashioned herself to be Annie Oakley and convinced the young Porter that the family's tract home was actually located in the Wild, Wild West. "Jean taught me how to handle a case of rabies. 'Just tie me up and shoot



Hopefully, Kim Porter won't fall off the stage during her show at the S.F. Fringe Festival this month (knock on wood). But if she does, she can always rebuild it. Photo by Christine Vaiana

me,' she'd say."

When Porter came of age, Jean helped her move to San Diego to pursue an acting career. But Porter was soon discouraged with acting and tried moving back to Texas. On her return, she noticed that the Rush Limbaugh bumper stickers greatly outnumbered those for Hillary Clinton, and once again she packed her bags for California.

Porter has been living in Noe Valley for the last six years. She and husband Ben Kaplan are nesting in a home that overlooks the Upper Noe Rec Center on 30th Street. The place is perfect for their soon-to-be-born tyke, who thus far has performed for audiences only on ultrasound.

Since arriving in the city, Porter has written and performed two other solo pieces: "Miss Betty" and "Tattle Tale—A One-Girl Show." She also has workshopped "Knock on Wood" for a year or so at various Bay Area venues, including the Marsh on Valencia Street. (She does comedy twice a week with the Marsh troupe Club Solo.)

Entering the spotlight when most pregnant women crave only a good nap and a back rub can be hard on even the most determined of performers. Has the stress reawakened the urge to knock on wood?

"I find it hard to know what my body can do right now because of the pregnancy. I did have a superstitious system of eating and resting so that I would peak for a performance at just the right time."

Performing for two has made Porter's body unpredictable, but she finds that the lessons she has learned about self-acceptance still apply.

"When I found myself getting anxious over a bout of sciatica, I gave myself permission to sit down in a chair and tell my story. The anxiety that had been paralyzing me went completely away." □

Kim Porter will perform "Knock on Wood" at the San Francisco Fringe Festival on Thursday, Sept. 9, at 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 12, at 1 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 10 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 19, at 4 p.m. All four shows will be at Il Teatro 450 at 449 Powell St. (third floor). Porter says her show contains adult language and is not recommended for kids under 16. Tickets are \$6 (\$5 for Frequent Fringers) and can be purchased 30 minutes before showtime. For information on the Fringe Festival, call 415-673-3847.



From Kim Porter's solo comedy

'Knock on Wood'

Noe Valley actor and comedian Kim Porter will perform her show "Knock on Wood" at the San Francisco Fringe Festival Sept. 9 to 19. (Call 415-673-3847 for times and ticket info.) To whet your appetite, here's an excerpt from her "hilariously cruel, yet uplifting saga of one very good girl's very bad habit of... knocking on wood."

I'm driving in my car on my way to work when I suddenly think a not-negative thought. "Well, at least I'm not the worst driver," I think. And so that my sudden lapse into excessive pride can't jinx me (after all, pride goeth before the fall), I reach down to knock on wood....

That was the day I finally realized that the wood grain around my car stereo was actually plastic!—always had been, always would be ... plastic—and I went berserk.

You see, I knocked on wood all the time. Constantly, in fact. I knocked on wood easily two hundred times a day.

But I hadn't always been like that. When I was a kid, I was still sane, and I just knocked every now and then like normal children do, with a fascination for the remote possibility that fate's little elves, powerful little elves, might be listening to every single word I said.

The first time I ever knocked on wood I was at my grandmother's house, in the dining room with my mom and all of her sisters. I was watching them play canasta and listening to family gossip while my cousins played out back in the ditch.

My cousins hated me. They said I was a goody-two-shoes, but they always wanted to do stuff that would get us in trouble, and I hated getting in trouble.

My cousin Kirk was the worst. I remember when we were 6 years old and we were out in my back yard and I was telling him what my dad had just told me. My dad had said, "Kim, I know you love to eat this ice." He was pointing to the coils in the top of our refrigerator. This was one of those old pre-frost-free refrigerators. I used to scrape my fingers along the coils and pull off handfuls of this dingy gray ice, which I ate all the time, even though it did taste kind of bad.

"I know you love to eat this ice, but never ever lick it with your tongue.

Because if you lick it with your tongue, those icy metal coils will rip the very skin from off your tongue."

"Wow."

So I was warning my cousin Kirk, right: "It will rip the very skin from off your tongue!"

"Nuh-uh."

"Yes, my dad told me. It will rip the very skin..."

"Your dad's a liar. I'll show you." And he goes marching into the house.

"KIRK, NO." I wanted to rush after him and stop him but I was paralyzed. I just hovered 10 feet away from the back door....

Then I heard the screaming. Then I heard the muffled commotion of my parents. Then Kirk appeared at the back door and there was blood running down his chin, his throat, and all down the neck of his stretched-out tee shirt. He was crying and sputtering blood and he was pointing at me, "Thee made me thoo it. Thee thold me thoo."

"Not to! I told him NOT TO!"

And my dad said, "Lena Kim Porter! You just had to start trouble, didn't you?" There's no justice.

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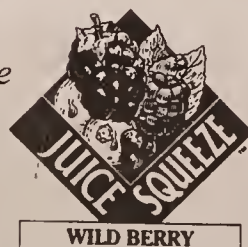


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Heralia the Parking Goddess

A Story by Anna Elsohn

The Voice thanks Noe Valley native Anna Elsohn, 13, for revealing the ancient origins of the rites we now observe on 24th Street.

Have you ever gone around the block so many times you wished there were someone there to help you find a parking space? Well, there is.

When Zeus noticed that people were having trouble finding parking spaces, he called upon Diana and Hermes to have a child, to be known as Heralia the Parking Goddess.

Zeus chose Diana because she is the goddess of the hunt and her daughter would inherit her ability to find things easily. He chose Hermes as the father because he is the messenger of the gods and is able to travel very quickly.

Heralia now lives on Mount Olympus and, like all gods, is immortal. She is usually portrayed as having brown hair, a medium complexion, and beautiful eyes. She has wheels for feet, and is usually sitting on top of a '56 Chevy. But Heralia can take many forms, such as a meter maid or a parking meter.

Humans who know the chant pray to her and give her offerings of small silver discs (coins). When they find a parking space with a shrine in front of it, they put the small discs in the holes. If they are good and patient, then Heralia will bless them by visiting them the next time they need a parking space.

In addition to shrines, there are other places humans can pray to the parking goddess. There are open-air and closed-air temples (otherwise known as parking garages). In Noe Valley, examples are the Open Air Temple at Bellinium ("Bell" for short) and the Open Air Temple at Castrolia (the parking lot on 24th near Castro). The Temple at Bellinium has no place for offerings, but the Temple at Castrolia does.

The goddess Heralia is not married (by choice). She also has no children. But she does have a sister, Disalia, the goddess of disabled persons. Heralia, feeling sorry for her sister, created "disabled parking." Disabled parking spaces are easily found, thanks to their bright blue color. There is no requirement to offer discs to Heralia when parking in one of Disalia's parking spaces.

Heralia also accommodates the goddess Hestia (the goddess of housekeeping) on special days, so that she can clean the streets as part of her housekeeping responsibilities. Heralia prohibits parking on days Hestia needs easy access to the streets.

But Heralia doesn't help unbelievers. In fact, she will do anything she can to make it hard for them to find parking spaces. If they are just lucky in finding a parking space but don't pay homage, Heralia may have their car removed



Anna Elsohn, who grew up on Vicksburg Street, says she was taught to pay tribute to the Maids of Meter at a very young age.

from the parking space, by calling upon her priests and priestesses to tow the car.

Heralia has many adventures finding parking spaces for people who believe. One of her favorite adventures was when there was a whole school bus full of children with many silver discs in their pockets. Heralia blessed them all with a parking space. Then, when the driver of the bus offered no silver discs to Heralia, she called upon one of her priestesses to tow the bus. When the parents of the children found out that their children were not at school when they got there to pick them up, they were furious. So, all of the parents drove to the site of the museum that the children had visited. Since it was the end of day, they all found parking spaces and offered silver discs to Heralia. She was so pleased that she decided to call upon the priestesses again to give the children back their school bus, on one condition: they all must chant the chant of the parking goddess and offer big green and white pieces of paper with numbers on them, along with the small silver discs.

It shines and glows if offerings for Heralia



The next time you are going around the block and would swear on your life there were no parking spaces, take a deep breath, sit in your seat with your legs crossed, and chant the chant: "Come parking goddess, come parking goddess, come parking goddess..." 10 times. Then take another deep breath

and keep driving. You should find a parking space within three minutes.

Once you find it, don't forget to give offerings of small silver discs. Otherwise, when you return to retrieve your car, a priestess might have taken it. □

After 13 years on Vicksburg Street, Anna Elsohn and her family moved to Pacifica this summer (possibly outside the domain of Heralia). However, Anna still attends the French American International School in San Francisco, and comes back to Noe Valley to visit her old friends. Her favorite subjects are English and music, and she wants to be a neonatologist when she grows up. That's a goddess, er doctor, who takes care of premature babies.

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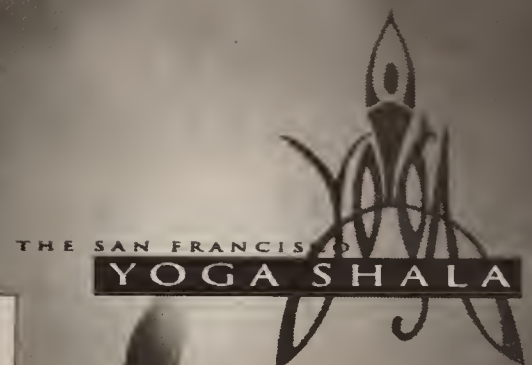
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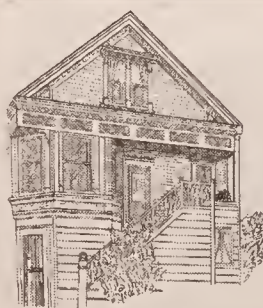
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SHORT TAKES

A Glen Park Extravaganza

Kids can paint a mural, adults can browse the arts and crafts booths, and everyone will dance in the streets at the Glen Park Neighborhood Festival, set for Sunday, Sept. 26.

The fourth annual street fair will feature live music by Brenda Boykin and Home Cookin', of the Boom Boom Room, and by Soul Sauce, regulars at the Union and Fillmore street fairs. Also on tap: appearances by the San Francisco Mounted Police, the SGI-USA Women's Taiko Group, and the dogs of the San Francisco SPCA.

Sponsored by the Glen Park Neighborhood Association, the festival raises money to send disadvantaged kids to Silver Tree Day Camp, which has been held in Glen Canyon Park since 1941. (Cool factoid: The park has one of only two free-running streams left in the city.) Last year's event funded 75 scholarships. Organizers are shooting to double that number this year.

And if you're feeling lucky (or generous), buy a raffle ticket for a chance to win a preview performance of a play at the American Conservatory Theatre, dinner at Sunny Jim's, a tour of Hearst Castle, or a cruise on the Bay.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. along Diamond Street from Bosworth to Chenery streets.

Ministry Makes History

It's loaded with old photographs, newspaper clippings, athletic medals, and recipes, but the Noe Valley Ministry's neighborhood timeline won't be finished until Sunday, Sept. 12, when the community is invited to add more goodies to the 3-D billboard.

The timeline will be the centerpiece of a daylong celebration marking the Ministry building's 111th year in Noe Valley. It has seven strands — families, the church, the neighborhood, the city, the state, the nation, and the globe. Organizers hope residents will bring momentos and memories — old interchurch basketball league jerseys, a program from the time Joan Baez sang at the church — to attach to the exhibit.

"We'd like the neighborhood to help us tell the stories the building would — if the building could talk," says Rev. Keenan Kelsey, pastor of the church, which has a 55-member Presbyterian congregation. "It's an opportunity for the community to create a joyful, living expression of the common good and the common ground we share as neighbors."

Besides the timeline, the celebration will include a musical jam session, a potluck lunch, and an exchange of gardening know-how and plant cuttings,



The Friends of the S.F. Public Library will hold their biggest fundraiser and book bonanza of the year Sept. 9 to 12 at Ft. Mason. If you can wait until Sunday (Sept. 12), all books are tagged \$1 or less. Photo by Karen Preuss

complete with information from the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners.

The event runs from noon to 3 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Call 282-2317 for inspiration.

Gotta Dance?

Dancing — from Scottish country to hip-hop — is happening at three venues in and around the neighborhood this month.

For anybody in the mood for swing dancing, a class for couples and singles will be held Fridays at 7 p.m. at Bethany United Methodist Church (1268 Sanchez St. at Clipper) Sept. 10 through Oct. 15. All experience levels are welcome to the 90-minute sessions taught by Rev. Linda Kelly, whose ministry focuses on the spirituality of dance. The six-week course costs \$40 for singles, \$80 for couples (lesbian, gay, transgendered, and bisexual welcome). To register or get more information, call 647-8393.

Jigs, reels, and strathspeys are some of the Scottish country dances that will be taught at the Noe Valley Ministry (1021 Sanchez St.) starting Sept. 16 at 8 p.m. Members of the San Francisco Scottish Country Dancers will teach two simultaneous classes — one for beginners and one for returning dancers. For a taste of this lively dance form, you might want to check out the Scottish Country Dance Party set for Sept. 9 at 8 p.m. at the Ministry. The cost is \$2, and wear flat shoes. For more information, call Susie Langdon Kass at 333-9372.

And over at Dance Mission at 3316 24th St., corner of Mission Street, you are invited to Five-Dollar Day, Sept. 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It's a chance to sample some of the dance studio's fall offerings, from ballet and tap to hip-hop and samba. The cost is \$5. For kids, Noe Valley storytellers Mark Baum and Laura McHale Holland will be on hand all day. For more information, call 826-4441.

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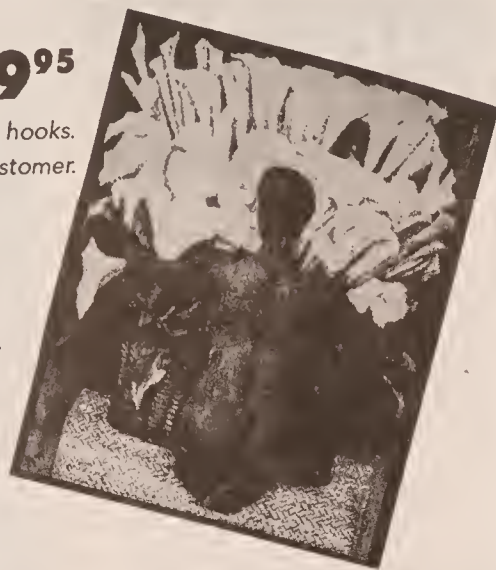
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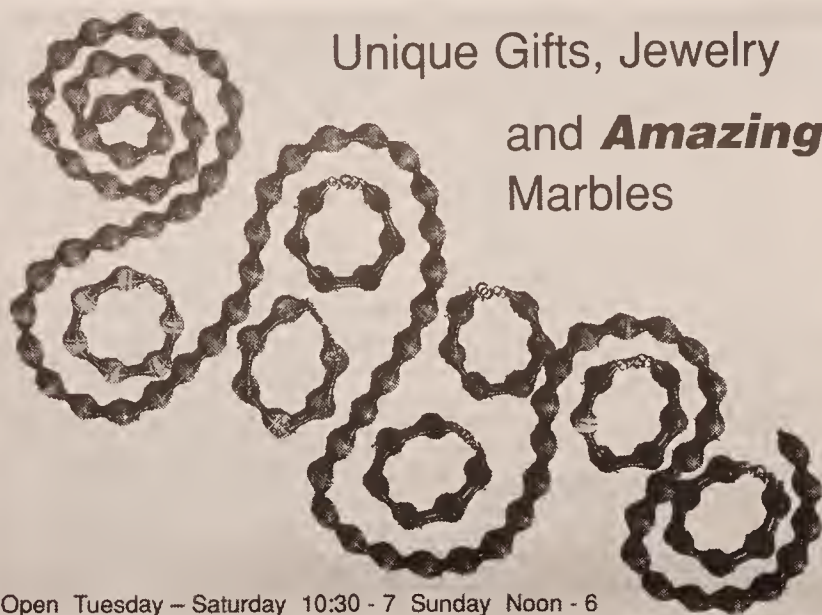
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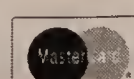
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If you've been thinking about volunteering for a good cause, your options are about to expand. Three agencies are looking for help.

The 30th Street Senior Center has openings for volunteers to serve lunch to the more than 200 seniors who dine at the center every weekday. Volunteer hours run 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and are flexible. The center is at 225 30th St. near Dolores. For more information, call volunteer coordinator Kim Longenecker at 550-2214.

San Francisco's Department of Animal Care and Control has put out a call for volunteers to walk dogs, pet cats, hug hamsters, or kiss bunnies. The efforts, which take place at the city shelter at 1200 15th St. at Harrison, help socialize the animals, making them more adoptable. For more information, call 554-9414 or visit the department's web site: www.ci.sf.ca.us/acc.

The nonprofit agency Health at Home hopes to attract new volunteers who want to give care and support to people with chronic, life-threatening illnesses such as HIV/AIDS, cancer, and heart disease. The agency, which operates under the umbrella of the city's Health Department, will be training new volunteers to provide practical and emotional support, run errands, provide transportation, give respite care, and do massage. The 12-hour training course runs Sept. 13 to 16 at Health at Home's offices, 45 Onondaga St. at Alemany Boulevard. For more information, call Pat Bregant at 452-2161.

Cheap Books for Sale

The Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library hopes to sell more than 100,000 new and used books during its 35th annual book sale, Sept. 9 to 12, at Fort Mason Center.

Proceeds will benefit the entire public library system, including the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch on Jersey Street.

To be a book booster, stop by the sale from 2 to 4 p.m. (members only) or 4 to 8 p.m. (\$15 admission) on Thursday, Sept. 9; or from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, when admission is free. Fort Mason is located at the foot of Buchanan Street opposite the Marina Safeway, and has great Muni access and "ample free parking."

Every child 8 or younger will receive a copy of *Alejandro's Gift*, by Richard E. Albert, courtesy of Chronicle Books. And on the last day of the sale, Sunday, Sept. 12, all books are \$1 or less.

Parks Look to Ballot Box

Park advocates have taken to the streets in their campaign for better parks, recreation, and open space. Acting swiftly after the Board of Supervisors declined to support a parks initiative sponsored by Supervisor Gavin Newsom, the Committee for Better Parks is gathering signatures to place a charter amendment on the March 2000 ballot.

According to campaign organizers, the measure would protect the parks and recreation budget, allowing it to be cut only at the same rate as other city departments. They also say secure funding is the best way to keep the city's park facilities safe and well maintained.

With backing from Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth, San Francisco Beautiful, SPUR, SLUG, and the Sierra Club, among others, the Commit-

tee is now looking for 600 volunteers to help collect the 60,000 signatures needed to qualify for a charter amendment. The group will offer training sessions and tee shirts for all volunteers and a large reward for the top signature gatherer. If you're interested, call 551-2572.

This month's Short Takes were written by Mark Robinson, Jeanne Alexander, and Sally Smith.

It's GameTime at Douglass Park

By Sally Smith

The children's sandbox at Douglass Playground will be closed for two weeks, from Sept. 1 to 12, and the park's play structures and old swing sets will be torn down. But don't despair. Clap your hands. More than \$15,000 in new play equipment, recently donated by a manufacturer called GameTime (see *Voice* July/August issue), is being installed by the city.

Debra Niemann of the Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association says the new equipment should be ready to ride by Monday, Sept. 13.

"This is only Phase One of the Douglass Park renovation, but it's really exciting," she says. "They are putting in a large play structure, which is dark green, yellow, brown, and cranberry, and has two plain slides, two curling slides, ramps, walkways, huts, and lots of things to hang on and run across." She adds that four swings—two bucket and two regular—and a red, yellow, and blue fire truck with a roof will also be installed in the next two weeks.

Niemann, a resident of 23rd Street, is one of "three or four key moms" who over the past year have marshalled the park improvements through the city bureaucracy. They include Krista Keegan of 26th Street, Cathy Scharetz of 23rd, "and Dorthe Deubler of Eureka Street, who initiated things and is truly wonderful."

But the NVNPIA members also want to thank the neighborhood for its generous support. "The response from Noe Valley residents, merchants, and community members—people with children and people without children—has been terrific. We've raised \$4,500, which has enabled us to put in the fire truck play station," Niemann says.

The group hopes to raise another \$15,000 for a new "Whirl" merry-go-round, to be installed next year as part of Phase Two. And Niemann says Friends of Recreation and Park has agreed to match all contributions dollar for dollar.

Make your check payable to Friends of Recreation and Parks, but be sure to note "Douglass Park Renovation" on the memo line, she says. (The tax i.d. number is 23-7131784, and donations are tax-deductible.) Then mail it to the Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association c/o Debra Niemann at 4171 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

Niemann says give her a call at 647-8165 if you have questions about the project or would like to join the association, which has not only adopted Douglass Park but Noe Courts on 24th Street. Fixing the parks "is a labor of love," she says, but the rewards are palpable. □



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STORE TREK

By Jim Christie

Storetrek is a regular feature of the *Voice* introducing new shops and businesses in the neighborhood. This month we feature an ice cream cafe, a vitamins franchise, and a store specializing in Southeast Asian imports. We'll also bring you up to date on a few moves and reopenings in the area.

Toko Imports 3910 24th St. (near Sanchez Street) 415-206-9838

A funny thing happened to Ralph and Sabine Thuler during a visit to Thailand, part of their extended honeymoon journey that took them through several countries. They realized how much they had enjoyed Indonesia, so they returned and spent the rest of their time there.

Now, 10 years later, the Thulers have two stores in San Francisco featuring Southeast Asian handmade decorative crafts, textiles, jewelry, and furniture, primarily from Indonesia.

The second Toko Imports store opened July 9 in the old Cover to Cover Book-sellers location on 24th Street (the first Toko store opened seven years ago in North Beach). The space has been remodeled, with the most noticeable addition being a "Marmoleum" floor, whose burnt-yellow and orange tones blend nicely with the large plantation teak furniture pieces, combining to give the store a warm glow.

Toko — the Bahasa-Indonesian word for "shop" — offers an impressive selection of merchandise, from artistic to functional, antique to contemporary, and low-cost to expensive. Popular craft works are the Balinese wooden fish mobiles (\$15 to \$20), "flying cow" mobiles (\$25), Javanese wooden shadow puppets (\$20 to \$35), and wrought-iron candleholders in whimsical shapes (\$20 to \$45). There are also Balinese ikat fabrics, sarongs (\$16), leather bags (\$40 to \$175), and collectors' items like wood-carved statuary and Javanese krises (ceremonial daggers, \$225 and up).

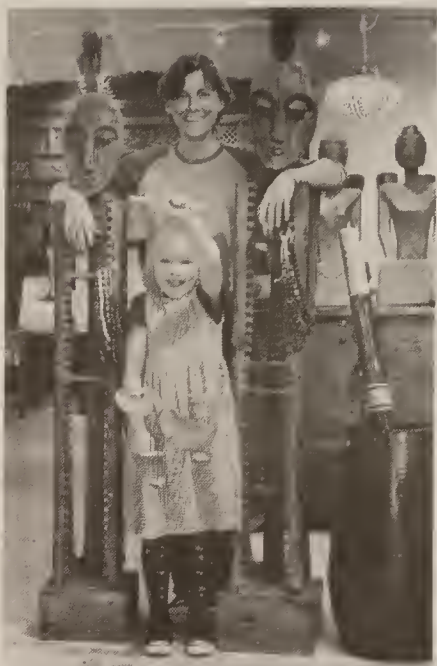
Ralph Thuler's passion is searching out fine antique furniture pieces, but he feels his business is a byproduct of a deeper passion: "It's really about loving Indonesia and Indonesians," he says. The Thulers return to the island nation once or twice a year, as much for renewing friendships as for maintaining their business.

Toko's antique furniture includes teak tables from \$800 to \$1,400, a massive teak storage chest at \$1,950, and an intricately carved Javanese double bed (\$5,400 delivered and set up). Newer pieces fall into the \$300 to \$400 range, and feature teak-frame rattan chairs at \$550 a pair. For customers interested in seeing a broader selection of furniture, Toko's Potrero Hill warehouse is open by appointment.

The Thulers are originally from Switzerland but have lived in San Francisco for many years. They moved from Bernal Heights two years ago and now reside on 22nd Street with their three children, ages 1 1/2 to 6. The two eldest children will be attending the Waldorf School (in kindergarten and first grade) this fall.

Ralph and Sabine are very pleased to have a store in their home neighborhood. "It's been wonderful," says Ralph. "Thank you, everyone, for welcoming us with open arms."

Toko Imports is open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (The store at 1314 Grant St. is open daily from noon to 7 p.m.)



Sabine Thuler and daughter Mali invite you to come meet the statues and toys at their 24th Street Indonesian arts store, Toko Imports.

Fountain of Youth Ice Cream Cafe 1484 Church St. (at 27th Street) 415-206-9411

It's funny the ideas that can pop into your head while you're having your hair done. Thrifty Drug pharmacist Kathy O'Neill suddenly thought "ice cream!" during an appointment last year with Teresa Donnelly of Danu Hair Design.

Why? Because Donnelly confided that she and her husband were acquiring the building at the corner of Church and 27th streets, and perhaps O'Neill would consider leasing a ground-floor space to open her own business. The rest, as they say, is history.

The Fountain of Youth Ice Cream Cafe opened July 3 with a "surprising number of people for a holiday weekend," says O'Neill, who added an official grand opening celebration Aug. 7, which also drew crowds.



Owner Kathy O'Neill (right) and Tina Mashni dish out the sweets at Fountain of Youth, an old-fashioned ice cream parlor at Church and 27th streets. Photos by Charles Kennard

Running an ice cream cafe is quite a career change for O'Neill, who moved to San Francisco from Maryland nine years ago, got her pharmacist's license, and then worked for Thrifty (now Rite Aid) on 24th Street for eight years. But she quickly sums up by joking, "I've gone from pills to chills!"

Her pharmacology background slips out in other humorous ways, as when she describes the cafe's '50s-style aqua- and lemon-colored walls as "subliminal Prozac." The cafe's interior has several tables with chrome and burgundy chairs, a kid-level counter with matching stools in one of the large windows, artwork on the walls (local photographer Sylvia Saves' children's photographs will be displayed

from September through mid-October), and an L-shaped soda fountain chockfull of goodies.

Fountain of Youth carries Double Rainbow Ice Cream in 20 different (rotating) flavors. It's available in "Little Dipper" cones at \$1.75; adult single-scoop "Lonely Dippers" at \$2.25; "Double Dippers" at \$2.75; and "Big-Big Dippers" (three scoops) for \$3.50. Other popular menu items include root beer floats, milkshakes, and malteds (\$3); hot fudge sundaes (\$3.95); cookies, cakes, tarts, and biscotti (\$.50 to \$2.50); plus a selection of coffee drinks.

O'Neill wants the New York egg cream aficionados out there to know that hers are made with milk, "two-cents plain" (seltzer), and Fox's You-Bet chocolate and vanilla syrups.

She says if you're coming with friends, you should try her "Martini Sundae," which has no alcohol but "might require a designated diver to get to the bottom of the glass." It includes six scoops of ice cream, whipped cream, nuts, sprinkles, and cherries for \$8.50.

Let's not forget the bonuses: Frequent Fountain Card holders get a free Double Dipper after 10 fountain purchases. Those who sit inside can play "Trivial Pursuit" on the placemats. Customers who stay outside, especially those who bring their dogs to sample the "Pup Cup" of vanilla ice cream and dog treats (\$1.75), can take their pick of two benches—one for adults and one for Lilliputians.

Fountain of Youth is open Sunday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.



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STORETREK

Continued from Previous Page

General Nutrition Center
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At 26 years old, Steve Fong may well be the youngest business proprietor on 24th Street. He was taking business courses at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills when he decided to get some real-life business experience. His General Nutrition Center franchise opened July 3 in the retail complex next to Bell Market. (It sits next door to 21st Century Video.)

Fong was born in San Francisco and



Arlene DeLeon can guide customers through the aisles of vitamins and herbs at a new General Nutrition franchise opened by Marina resident Steve Fong. Photo by Charles Kennard

currently lives in the Marina District. He became interested in General Nutrition Centers while working part-time at several of their locations in the city. "I liked the products," says Fong, "so I thought it was a good idea to get into a business whose products I respect and use myself."

General Nutrition carries a wide range of nutritional supplements, including herbs, vitamins and minerals, sports supplements, energy drinks, mineral water, and natural remedies. There are also displays featuring cosmetics, teas, and health magazines and books.

The brightly lit store is long and narrow, with products arranged by category on wood shelves along the walls and in centrally located islands. Name brands include Creatine for body- and muscle-building; Atkins Diet products with low-carb, low-sugar ingredients; SAME products which are reputed to aid in arthritis relief and mood enhancement; and Herbal V for alleged vitality of the amorous kind. Natural remedies include ginseng, goldenseal, echinacea (30 capsules for \$13), and ginkgo biloba (60 caps for \$21), among others.

GNC has its own line of health products as well, such as the Herbal Plus and Pro Performance brands. GNC Gold Card members receive special discounts on all brands. For a \$15 annual fee, cardholders get 20 percent off their first purchase and for all subsequent purchases made on the first Tuesday of every month. Any cus-

tomers, Gold Card member or not, can buy one GNC product and get the second (of the same size or potency) for half price.

To learn more about GNC, Internet surfers can pull up www.gnc.com. But Noe Valleons should drop in and say hi to Steve Fong and his staff.

His General Nutrition Center is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Other Movers and Shakers

Upper Noe landmark **Star Bakery**, which had been closed for almost a year, reopened on the corner of 29th and Church streets in July. Baker Yvon Bahic wants to turn the Star into an "international-style bakery with a French flair." French or not, dedicated customers are happy that their favorite item, Irish Soda Bread, is available again (\$3.50 for a pound and \$6 for two).

Star Bakery is open weekdays, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sundays, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. The phone number is 415-648-0785.



On 24th Street, **Psychic Palm & Card Readings by Christina** moved from its location a few blocks up the street and reopened in the old Misha's Antiques space at 3870 24th St., next door to Martha & Bros. Coffee.

Christina, who wants to retain her mystery by not revealing her last name, offers introductory palm readings for \$10, tarot and angelic card readings for \$45 to \$50, and psychic readings for \$75.

Christina also provides her clairvoyant services in Santa Cruz, where she spends half her time. She'll be at the 24th Street location the first two weeks of September, and welcomes calls for appointments at 415-643-1123.



At the corner of 24th and Noe, **Rabat** clothing store has doubled its space by completing its expansion into the old Yankee Clipper Travel location next door. Owner Patty Woody has been doing business on 24th Street for 28 years now, and proudly says that several "three-generation shoppers" are among her customers.

The new addition to her store contains footwear, handbags, and men's neckties (Woody is "gradually getting into menswear"), while the original space has kept the women's fashions, dressing rooms, and check-out counter.

The roomier Rabat (415-282-7861) is open weekdays, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



Finally, you *are* seeing double, with two **Cottage Industry** stores now open on 24th Street. Bruno Guarini is up and running in his above-ground store in the old Classy Sweats location at 4068 24th St. (the other shop is below 17 Reasons).

The new location (415-821-2465) has more space and larger imported items like furniture (see *Voice* June 1999). You can't miss the store — there's an old bicycle rickshaw from Katmandu displayed out front. Cottage Industry's hours are the same at both stores: daily 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



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Noe Valley Author Cara Black Finds Mystery In France

By Jim Christie

During a visit to Paris in 1984, Noe Valley writer Cara Black and a friend explored the Marais, an old district of cobblestone streets and dilapidated mansions originally built for the French nobility, which by World War II had become a Jewish ghetto.

The friend told Black the story of her mother, who, as a 14-year-old Parisian Jew, lost her parents when they were shipped to a concentration camp. The girl escaped the Nazis' roundup and fended for herself till the end of the German occupation. But her family never returned.

The haunting story stayed with Black. Then years later, it became even more vivid when she met another Holocaust survivor who related a similar experience. The idea for a novel began to gel.

Now, 15 years after that first tour of the Marais, Cara Black's debut novel, *Murder in the Marais*, has been published, and Black is well into the second in a series of mysteries featuring her computer-sleuth protagonist, Aimée Leduc.

Publishers Weekly called the book "a thrilling, quick-paced chase involving neo-Nazis, corrupt government officials, and fierce anti-Semitism." The magazine also deemed it "a standout first novel." Apparently other readers agree: *Murder in the Marais* just went into its second hard-cover printing after an initial run of 5,000.

Cara Black's life so far—she's in her late 40s—is an intriguing religious, cultural, and ethnic amalgam that might warrant a mystery novel in its own right. She was born in Chicago to parents who now live near Palo Alto; traveled through Europe and worked in Switzerland; attended Sophia University, a Catholic university in Tokyo where she met her Japanese husband-to-be; was a preschool teacher at a local Jewish Community Center (though she's not Jewish); and for her novel set in Paris, created a half-French, half-American female private eye, whose partner is a computer-hacking dwarf with a black belt in martial arts.

That said, where does Noe Valley come into play?

Black moved to San Francisco in 1976 and married Jun Ishimuro in 1981. Now she and Ishimuro live on Alvarado Street with their 10-year-old son, Shuchan, and with Ishimuro's mother, who moved from Japan a few years ago to join them.

"The neighborhood was the draw," says Black, who started house hunting when Shuchan was 18 months old.

"We were living in the Mission in a great little house on Shotwell," she says. "We liked it, but there were some gang problems at the time. Having a child gives you a different perspective. So we started driving around on Sundays, and we just hit this street [Alvarado]. Jun saw an open house, so he stopped to have a look. He came out and said, 'Go in, and look out the little window in the bathroom. That's what we'll have.'"

The view is nice, but that's not what's important to Black. "I like the neighborhood feel," she says, "and so many people from Shuchan's school [San Francisco School] live in this area. We've chosen to live here, we like it here, and my family's nearby. We're not going anywhere."

Black was an avid reader as a young girl (mostly Nancy Drew mysteries), but she didn't start writing until her son was



Local writer Cara Black and family swapped houses with a French family while researching her suspense novels featuring detective Aimée Leduc. Photo by Dennis Heorne

2. "I was always too busy, too young, and too impatient," she says with a grin.

Her first attempt as a novelist was a murder mystery set in San Francisco that she calls her "learning-to-write" book. She eventually "put it in a drawer" after it failed to interest any literary agents. Then she began *Murder in the Marais*.

During the three and a half years she spent on the novel, Black joined a writers group, took a mystery writing class at City College, wrote a scenario for NBC's *Unsolved Mysteries*, and enrolled in a poetry class at U.C. Extension to sharpen her technique. "That was daunting," she says. "I am really impressed by people who write poetry and short stories."

When she finished the novel, Black was still unable to find an agent. Her husband, a bookseller at Kinokuniya Books for 11 years and now at the Friends of Photography Bookshop at Ansel Adams Center, suggested Soho Press, a publisher that considers non-mainstream material from "unagented" authors.

Cara Black has an agent now, but she enjoyed going "right to the top" for her first book contract.

She describes her main character, who is in the vein of Sara Paretsky's V.I. Warshawski, as "single-minded, not afraid of danger, but unlucky in love. Aimée is enough of a Parisian to know how to wear a silk scarf, but she's struggling on the fringes of French society. As the lone detective seeking justice, she's an outsider."

Since her novel's publication, Black has been interviewed on TV and radio, including a recent segment on Sedge Thomson's *West Coast Live*.

Her "big event," though, was a June book-signing party at Cover to Cover on 24th Street. "I was nervous," she says, "but they were wonderful and I really felt comfortable."

Black also appreciates the "wonderful Noe Valley librarians," who receive her thanks in the book's acknowledgments. "I worked with Lourdes [Fortunado], Roberta [Greifer], and Carol [Small], and they were all so nice. Whenever I needed help or to look things up, they were right there." (Noe Valley's librarians were also acknowledged by Ruthanne Lum McCunn in *Wooden Fish Songs*.)

In the midst of events surrounding the publication of *Murder in the Marais*, Cara Black has continued to write, usually early in the morning: "When I'm really good, I get up at five or five-thirty when everyone's still asleep," she says. "I break off for breakfast and they [her husband and Shuchan] go to work and school, and then I try to work until about eleven."

By then, she says, "I get antsy, so I usually walk down the hill. It feels kind of like Europe. You can just walk down 24th Street and buy fresh fruit, a magazine, or something to eat. I probably patronize every shop on the street. I love it at night, too.

Excerpts from Cara Black's

Murder in the Marais

Aimée unlocked the door that read LEDUC DETECTIVE that led to the office she'd taken over after her father's death, flipped on the lights, and draped her jacket over her armchair. Nineteenth-century sepia prints of Egyptian excavations hung on the walls above digitally enhanced Parisian sewer maps.

Hecht moved his cadaverous frame across the parquet floor. Something about him struck her as familiar. As he lifted his arm onto her desk, she saw faint blue numbers tattooed on his forearm peeking out from his jacket sleeve. Did he want her to find Nazi loot in numbered Swiss bank accounts? She scooped ground coffee into the filter, poured water, and switched on the espresso machine, which grumbled to life.

"Specifically, Monsieur Hecht, what is the job?"

"Computer penetration is your field." His eyes scanned the equipment lining the walls. He thrust a folder at her. "Decipher this computer code. The Temple Emanuel is hiring you."

Aimée walked through the long shadows cast across the courtyard of Hôtel Sully. Dark green hedgerows manicured thinly into fleur-de-lys shapes broke up the wide gravel expanse. This tall mansion, another restored *hôtel particulier*, gave access to Place des Vosges via a narrow passageway.

She'd left René a message telling him where she was meeting Morbier. René's cautionary tone pulsed in her brain and she felt open to attack. Threatening faxes, graffitied threats, and hostile cars forcing her off her moped hadn't disturbed her as much as the virus attack on their computer system. Computers were their meal ticket. Her Glock, loaded and ready in her jeans pocket, was molded to her hip.

A buttery caramel aroma drifted across the courtyard. Her mind darted to the warm, upside-down apple tart for which Ma Bourgoyne was famous. The restaurant lay past this narrow passage, under the shadowy arcade of Place des Vosges. She pulled out her cell phone and punched in René's number again. No answer.

As she turned to open her backpack, a hot burning stung her ear. Powdery plaster spit from the stone arch as a neat row of bullets peppered the wall..

Reprinted by permission from *Murder in the Marais*, published by Soho Press (New York: 1998).

At eleven o'clock, when I realize I don't have anything for my son's lunch the next day, I can literally run down the hill to Bell Market to get food. It's really nice."

For research on her second novel, Black headed for France in August, but this time it was a family affair. "We did a house exchange," she says. "We crossed in the air with the French family. They got a slice of Noe Valley, and we were hanging out in the [French] countryside with Shuchan."

When asked if this was really a working trip, Black laughs and says, "I deserve to goof off, don't I?"

Probably so, but whether for work or play, Cara Black was back at her computer keyboard again in late August. □

Murder in the Marais is available at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore and Cover to Cover Booksellers on 24th Street. The first chapter appears on Cara Black's web site: www.carablack.com.



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Calendar

NOW: The "Rolling Readers" literacy program at Alvarado School, needs **VOLUNTEERS** for reading aloud and tutoring. Call 469-4784.

SEPT. 1-26: Catherine McPhail exhibits **SCREENPRINTS** at 17 Reasons Store/Gallery. 3961 24th St. 206-1717.

SEPT. 1-28: Ruby's **CLAY STUDIO** exhibits Denise Stukas' raku ceramics through Sept. 14, and Claudia Morgan's modern minimal works after Sept. 17. 552A Noe St. 558-9819.

SEPT. 1-29: A **CHESS CLUB** for players of all ages and levels meets Wednesdays at 4 pm. Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

SEPT. 1-NOV. 19: Douglas Legg exhibits 40 gelatin silver photographs of "VIETNAM in Black and White." Reception Sept. 2, 5:30-7:30 pm. City Hall, 1 Carlton Goodlett Place. 826-6632.

SEPT. 4-6: The S.F. **MIME TROUPE's** last performances of *City for Sale*, "a punchy new musical on the urban housing crisis," begin at 1:30 pm. Dolores Park. 285-1717.

SEPT. 4-25: The Randall Museum's Saturday workshops include "Clay Applique Boxes" on Sept. 4, "Marvelous Magnets" on Sept. 11, "Paper Bag Hats and Magic Wands" on Sept. 18, and "SSSNAKES" on Sept. 25. 1-2:30 pm; sign up at 12:30 pm. 199 Museum Way, 554-9600.

SEPT. 4, 11, 18 & 25: **FAMILY STORY TIME** at the Mission Library is in English at 11 am and in Spanish at noon. 300 Bartlett St. 695-5090.

SEPT. 5: Look out for the **BIG GARAGE SALE** on the corner of Sanchez and Cesar Chavez! 9 am till...?

SEPT. 5: **RABBI ALAN LEW** from Congregation Beth Shalom signs and discusses *One God Clapping*. 1 pm. Cover to Cover, 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

SEPT. 5-26: Golden Gate Metropolitan Church, a "house of prayer for all people," holds its **SUNDAY SERVICE** at 10:30 am. 1508 Church St. 642-0294.

SEPT. 7: **MAYOR WILLIE BROWN** and Rec & Park chief Joel Robinson discuss their Park Renaissance Crusade at the September meeting of Advocates for Upper Noe Rec Center. 7:30 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. For info call Greg Clark, 719-8828.

SEPT. 7: Dr. Betty Carmack leads a free **PET LOSS** support group for grieving pet owners. 7:30-9:30 pm. SPCA, 243 Alabama St. 554-3050.

SEPT. 7 & 21: The Glen Park Library offers goodies for preschoolers: **STORY TIME** at 10 am and crafts at 10:45 am. 3653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

SEPT. 7, 14 & 21: Preschoolers 3 to 5 will delight in **STORY TIME** at the Noe Valley Library. 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 7, 14, 21 & 28: Lauren Coleman's **HIP CITY JAZZ DANCE** classes continue at 6 pm at the Noe Valley Ministry. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2782.

SEPT. 7, 14, 21 & 28: Lullabies and **BEDTIME STORIES** for all ages begin at 7 pm. Excelsior Branch Library, 4400 Mission St. 337-4735.

SEPT. 8-23: Celebrate **HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH** with anthropologist David Matsuda's lectures on the Olmec, Teotihuacan, and Aztec cultures of ancient Mesoamerica. Wednesdays, 6-7:30 pm. Main Library, Latino/Hispanic Room, 100 Larkin St. 557-4515.



Mexican-American author and artist Carmen Lomas Garza leads the first of 10 "Family Saturdays" on Sept. 11 at the Mission Branch Library at 24th and Bartlett. Photo by Hulleah Tsinhnahjinnie.

SEPT. 9: Bart and Judy Lewis lead a series of six **BALLROOM DANCE** classes for couples. Basic, 7:30-8:30 pm; intermediate, 8:30-9:30 pm. Commodore Sloat School, Ocean Ave. at Junipero Serra Blvd. 661-2746.

SEPT. 9 & 16: The **SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCERS** show off their jigs and reels at an introductory party (no partners needed) on Sept. 9, 8 pm. An eight-class series begins Sept. 16. Noe Valley Ministry. 4 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 333-9372.

SEPT. 9-11: New student **REGISTRATION** at the Community Music Center, by appointment only, is scheduled from 3 to 7 pm Thurs. and Fri., and 10 am to 1 pm on Sat. 544 Capp St. For an appointment, call 647-6015.

SEPT. 9-12: The 35th annual Friends of the S.F. Public Library **BOOK SALE** benefits neighborhood branch libraries. Thurs., 2-4 pm, members only; 4-8 pm, \$15 admission; free Fri.-Sun., 10 am-6 pm. Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason Center. 557-4257.

SEPT. 9-19: Noe Valley resident Kim Porter performs her **SOLO COMEDY Knock on Wood**. Thurs., Sept. 9, 8:30 pm; Sun., Sept. 12, 1 pm; Wed., Sept. 15, 10 pm; Sun., Sept. 19, 4 pm. Il Teatro 450, 449 Powell St. 673-3847.

SEPT. 10-12: Dancers' Group Local 7 **CHOREOGRAPHERS'** series showcases original work by a variety of dancers. 8 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

SEPT. 10-OCT. 15: Rev. Linda Kelly leads a **SWING DANCE CLASS** for couples and singles of all skill levels. Fridays, 7-8:30 pm. Bethany Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

SEPT. 11: **FIVE DOLLAR DAY** at Dance Mission affords a chance for adults to try out classes (from ballet to flamenco to hip-hop) for a daylong \$5 ticket; storytelling for kids is also offered. 9 am-5 pm. 3316 24th St. 826-4441.

SEPT. 11: Be a "Doggy-Doo-Gooder" at the SPCA's **PARK CLEANUP** at McKinley Square. 10 am-noon. Vermont & 20th St. 522-3523.

SEPT. 11: A **GRANDPARENT** craft and story hour at Cover to Cover begins at 11 am. 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

SEPT. 11: Author/artist **CARMEN LOMAS GARZA** tells stories and leads a *papel picado* workshop for children (with their parents). 1-3 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 695-5090.

SEPT. 11: Steve Tibbetts and Choying Drolma perform "Cho," traditional **TIBETAN BUDDHIST SONGS**. 8:30 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. 454-5238.

SEPT. 12: The Noe Valley Ministry celebrates its 111th **BIRTHDAY** with shared experiences and memories; bring your memorabilia! Noon-3 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. Call 282-7798 or 282-3448 for more info.

SEPT. 12: Bay Area writer Gretchen Brink signs *The Boy Next Door*, and Alex Matthews signs his fourth Cassidy McCabe **MYSTERY**, *Wanton's Web*. 2-3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

SEPT. 12: **COLAGE** (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere) is the featured organization at the monthly meeting of **PFLAG**. 2-4 pm. St. Francis Church, 152 Church St. 921-8850.

SEPT. 13: Meet **CLINT REILLY**, candidate for mayor, at a neighborhoodwide gathering at Bethany Church. 7 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. For info, call Janice Gendreau, 876-2237.

SEPT. 15: The Mission Library's **PRESCHOOL FILM** program begins at 10:30 am. 300 Bartlett St. 695-5090.

SEPT. 15: Noe Valley author **KAREN ALLEN** signs her new novel, *Pearl City Control Theory*. 7 pm. Cover to Cover, 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

SEPT. 15, 22 & 29: The Noe Valley Library hosts **LAPSITS** for infants, toddlers, and their parents beginning at 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

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SEPT. 17: Singer/composers Juliana Kohl and Claudia Jensen Dudley present an evening of POETRY AND MUSIC, featuring guest soprano Ann Mia Haning. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. 642-1507 or 387-2248.

SEPT. 18: The second annual FAMILY HARVEST FESTIVAL features farm foods, bluegrass music, organic beer, sheep shearing, butter making, and kids' activities including a hay bale maze. 10 am-4 pm. Front & Union at the Embarcadero. 433-0850.

SEPT. 18: Children's book authors J. Otto Seibold and Vivian Walsh bring their *PENGUIN DREAMS* to Cover to Cover Booksellers. 11 am. 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

SEPT. 18: A BARBECUE at St. Aiden's Episcopal Church benefits community organizations. 11 am-2:30 pm. 5300 Diamond Heights Blvd. 285-9540.

SEPT. 18: Modern Times Bookstore introduces a CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR (for ages 3 to 8; third Saturday of every month) with Candace Fleming's *When Agnes Caws* and a talk about birds. 1-2 pm. 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

SEPT. 18: JAZZ VOCALIST Daria performs at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

SEPT. 18 & 19: A JEWELER'S STUDIO SALE features Amy Faust's beach and bottle glass in silver settings and Shahasp Designs' carved onyx and crystal in sterling. 11 am-6 pm. 237 30th St. 920-9439.

SEPT. 19: Kris Neri's first MYSTERY, *Revenge of the Gypsy Queen*, introduces detective wannabe Tracy Easton. 2-3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

SEPT. 21 & 28: New Dawn YOGA THERAPY introduces an eight-week class beginning Sept. 28, "Universal Tools for Transformation," with a discussion on Sept. 21 at the Noe Valley Library. 7-8:15 pm. 451 Jersey St. 285-1831.

SEPT. 23: Historian Harriet Rochlin, author of *Pioneer Jews: A New Life in the Far West*, tells stories of JEWISH PIONEER WOMEN. 11:30 am with the Congregation Emanu-El Sisterhood lunch at noon. 751-2541, ext. 55.

SEPT. 23: The Main Library shows a large-screen video, *HARRY BRIDGES: A Man and His Union*, as part of the "American Labor: The Struggle for Workers' Rights" series. Noon. Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4515.

SEPT. 24: GUNNAR MADSEN and the Birdwatchers perform an 8:15 pm concert at the Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

SEPT. 25: The parent and baby MUSIC HOUR sponsored by Cover to Cover Booksellers begins at 10 am. 3812 24th St. 282-8080.

SEPT. 25: The Older Women's League (OWL) hosts talk by Alice Hodge, author of *Taking Charge of Your Health: Understanding the System Could Save Your Life*. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Phone 989-4422 for location.

SEPT. 25: FALL FEST at the Children's Zoo features a corn-shucking contest, a livestock stampede, scarecrow making, spinning and butter-churning exhibitions, and a barnyard animals noise contest. 11 am-3 pm. San Francisco Zoo, 1 Zoo Road. 705-0761.



Singer/songwriter Gunnar Madsen celebrates the release of a new album of children's songs, *Old Mr. Mackle Hackle*, at the Noe Valley Music Series Sept. 24. Photo by Cynthia Smalley.

SEPT. 25: The Upper Noe Neighbors invites neighborhood residents and merchants to a POTLUCK PICNIC at Upper Noe Park featuring music, games, and other fun activities. 1 to 4 pm. Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez. Marybeth Wallace, 550-0257.

SEPT. 26: The fourth annual GLEN PARK FESTIVAL features entertainment, food, a raffle, and activities for all ages. 10 am-5 pm. Diamond between Bosworth and Cheney St. 841-9760.

SEPT. 26: Chattanooga CHAMBER MUSIC begins its new season with a concert at 3 pm. 152 Chattanooga St.

SEPT. 26: JAZZ DIVA Mary Stallings performs Ellington and other composers at a Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon concert at the Noe Valley Ministry. 4 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 824-9557.

SEPT. 27 & 28: "My Eyes Have Their Own Life," a BENEFIT celebrating women's self-determination, helps fund the Women's Community Clinic. Gala on Mon., 7 pm; community performance Tues., 8 pm. Theater Artaud, 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

SEPT. 28: FILMS for children 3 to 5 include *Elephants*, *Hot Hippo*, and *Tangram*. 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

SEPT. 28: Travel down to Modern Times Bookstore for Juliette Torrez's *The SOFA SURFING Handbook* and Cameron Tuttle's *The Bad Girl's Guide to the Open Road*. 7:30 pm. 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

SEPT. 30: On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center celebrates its 20th anniversary with a dinner DANCE GALA at La Union Española. 8 - 10:30 pm. 838 Grant Ave. For reservations call 292-8732.

October Calendar Deadline Looms

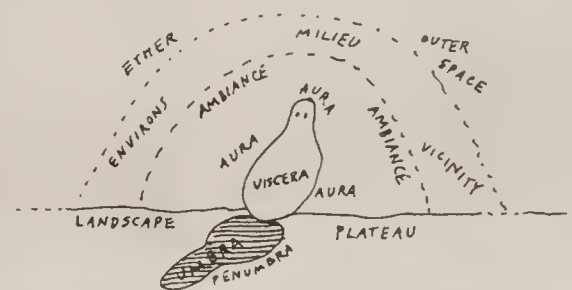
The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the October issue, appearing (and disappearing) in local shops and stores on **Sept. 30**. It will unveil calendar events for the month of October. Please send any calendar or news items to us by our grateful deadline: **Sept. 15**.

You can mail your notices to the *Noe Valley Voice* at 1021 Sanchez St., S.F., CA 94114. Or e-mail items to jaxvoice@aol.com.

For last-minute changes or questions, call Karol at 285-6347. But don't scare us too much.

OCT. 1: The ROVA SAXOPHONE QUARTET performs in concert at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

OCT. 2: "How to Get Published," *Noe Valley Voice* contributor Janis Cooke Newman's nuts-and-bolts WORKSHOP for freelancers, runs from 10 am-4 pm. The Writing Salon, 642-9793; www.writingsalons.com.



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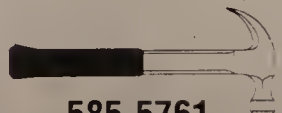
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Marie P. Simard



The Swallows Return

It is said that people travel to figure out where they're from.

Noe Valley residents know exactly where they're from and how to travel gently in the world. As ambassadors of good will straight from 24th Street, they don't care how dorky they look to the locals when they whip out their copies of the Voice and solicit strangers to take pictures of them pretending to read.

Which brings us to the question: Are all of these Noe Valley fans smiling because they are on vacation, or because they know they get to come back home? You decide.



Here is Brian Brockway with cherubs to his right and the Tower Eiffel over his left shoulder. He is catching his breath on the Pont Alexandre III in Paris. Did Brian have a nice vacation? *Mais oui!*



Mrs. Anne A. Barske of Chicago, Illinois, takes comfort in reading the Voice real estate ads. Do you know what you could get in Chicago for the price of a studio in Noe Valley? Well, yes, but that would mean living in Chicago. So what's your point?



Would you like coleslaw with that paper? Peggy Lopez McAlister, a teacher at James Lick, and her friend, Pam DiMarco, catch up on Noe doings in front of Canter's Deli in Los Angeles.



Yes, Patty Harrold of Bell Market made it to the very top of the main pyramid at Chichen Itza in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula despite 100-degree temperatures and 100 percent humidity. Here she is fanning herself with the Voice in front of "El Castillo."



World travelers (and Noe Street photojournalists) Robert Dawson and Ellen Manchester take a break from exploring Angkor Wat in Cambodia to send these smiles home to fellow Voice readers. They were traveling with Ellen's brother, who served in the Vietnam War.

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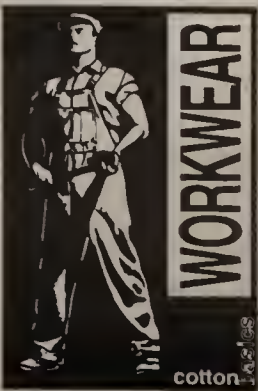
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Welcome Home, Readers

On pins and needles? Former Duncan Street resident Kelly Berger and Noe acupuncturist Larry Forsberg, L.Ac., found photo opportunities helped them fight nuptial nerves at their wedding at Temple Bat Yam in Berlin, Maryland. Congratulations!



Church Street resident Robert O'Malley's mom, Marie O'Malley, is the biggest Noe Valley Voice booster in Omaha, Nebraska. Here she is on the Carnival cruise ship *Elation* in Mazatlan, Mexico, trying to lure new readers. Thanks, Mom!



In June, Noe Valley resident Ron Stall visited the Tetracylon in Aphrodisias, Turkey. No doubt he's wondering how it and other antiquities fared during the recent quake—the second most devastating earthquake in Turkey's history.



Constance Lewallen shares this news from Vienna, Austria: There is plenty of curb parking downtown. Should somebody tell the mayor? Can you say "road trip"?



Top three reasons why Ellen Harris reads the Noe Valley Voice in New York City. Reason #3: People will think you're smart. #2: People will see you're from San Francisco. And the #1 reason? Dave Letterman may invite you to see *The Late Show*.



The Reverend Keenan Kelsey, pastor of the Noe Valley Ministry, shares news of her village with a Masai woman in Kenya, Africa. Join her at 10:30 Sundays to hear some spiced-up sermons, including lessons about roads less traveled.

NOE KIDS

Exploring the 'Other Stuff' at Yerba Buena Gardens

By Janis Cooke Newman

A pterodactyl is grabbing my bowling pins. It flies through the air, neatly depositing the 3 and 9 pin into a large nest. My son Alex and I watch as the prehistoric bird squawks to congratulate me on making the spare, and the screen switches back to an electronic scorecard indicating that it's now Alex's turn to bowl.

We're at the Yerba Buena Bowling Center at Yerba Buena Gardens, a complex that includes an ice skating rink, a restored carousel, a children's playground, and the new Zeum Art & Technology Center. All of these are what I've come to think of as "the other stuff at Yerba Buena," mostly because Sony's flashy new Metreon, that cross between the movie *Blade Runner* and a theme park, gets all the press.

So today, Alex and I have come to see what else there is to do at Yerba Buena—located just a few blocks from the J-Church's Powell Street Station.

After making another spare, I decide that my favorite thing about the Bowl-



The bowling alley at Yerba Buena Gardens has "bumpers," which help you avoid gutter balls and score more strikes.

Photo by Ken Newman

ing Center is the "bumpers." There's a little switch on every lane that replaces your gutters with a nice soft bumper that sends your ball straight into the number 1 pin. It's there for the kids, but as someone who has never bowled anything higher than a 63, I think it's the coolest thing since those little jets of air that dry off your fingers.

Alex's favorite thing is the video screen, which keeps score, tells you whose turn it is, and rewards you with little cartoons like the pterodactyl when you make a strike or a spare. Every time Alex tosses his special 6-pound kid's ball down the lane, he runs back to see if he's going to get the exploding bowling pin or the character that gets knocked out in the boxing ring.

Yerba Buena Bowling's atmosphere is pretty different from the bowling alleys my father took me to as a kid—adult places filled with cigarette smoke, half-empty cups of Pabst Blue Ribbon, and fat guys in shirts with their names embroidered in cursive script over their pockets. At Yerba Buena, there are colorful pictures of hot-air balloons painted on the walls and tiny two-toned bowling shoes for 3-year-olds.

Thanks to the bumpers, Alex beats my former top tally, and I bowl a staggering 116. Picking up the printout of our score sheet, we walk across the courtyard to the ice skating rink.

The rink is in a glass-sided building, and as the speakers crank out *Lynyrd Skynyrd Live*, we skate past views of the jukebox Marriott Hotel and the big striped frisbee on the Museum of Modern Art. In the center of the rink, a burly man who looks as if he operates earth-moving equipment during the week is executing a series of graceful turns, delicately crossing his hands over his chest.

"Make believe your toes don't like each other," he tells Alex, who is skating pigeon-toed. We glide by little girls in skating skirts practicing their jumps and couples clutching each other's hands just to stay upright, coming around just in time to hear the man offer the same advice to a 2-year-old who is being dragged around the rink by his parents.

After we turn in our plastic skates, Alex runs outside to the rooftop playground, which has a cushioned surface that feels like walking on a stack of Dr. Scholl's insoles. The main attraction here is a tall climbing structure with two enormous silver tube slides, which spit children out onto cushions like prizes from a gumball machine.

Across from the slides, I check out a multistoried sandbox with a spouting lion fountain in the center and an assortment of plastic buckets, shovels, and turtle and fish molds. Around the edges of the sandbox, a group of older Asian men have brought their pet parakeets out for an airing. The men sit with the caged birds at their feet, watching their grandchildren dig moats for sandcastles.

I've read that there is a maze of hedges here, and the next time Alex shoots out of the tube slide, I grab him and we head off to find it. I'm thinking *Alice in Wonderland* and imagine we'll lose our way in narrow, green-tinted alleys. But I've forgotten that the children's garden has only been open a couple of months. "Why are we doing this?" Alex asks, as he rushes through the maze surrounded by hedges that barely come up to his waist.

Zeum is our next stop, the funnel-shaped building that looks like a cartoon version of the Guggenheim in New York. Billed as San Francisco's art and technology center for ages 8 to 18, it's a

little old for Alex, but he likes it anyway. We stop at the animation studio, where kids are making their own versions of Wallace and Grommet out of clay and shooting them against backdrops of mountains and skyscrapers. Then we climb up and slide down a giant carton of Horizon Organic Milk.

Outside, we visit the restored carousel that for nearly 60 years was part of Playland at the Beach, San Francisco's famed amusement park near the Cliff House. Built in 1906, the carousel now spins beneath a faceted glass roof that makes the ponies with real horsehair tails sparkle like colored jewels.

"I want the horse with the gun," Alex shouts, climbing onto a stallion that has a rifle painted beneath its saddle. As the carousel turns, he pretends to shoot the camels in front of him, and I realize that all those hours spent watching Mr. Rogers feed fish are lost on a 4-year-old with a testosterone rush.

"What was your favorite thing?" I ask Alex, as we head back to the streetcar.

He thinks a minute, waving his bowling score at the people on Market Street.

"All of it," he says, proving there is life after Metreon. □

The ABC's of YBC

The Yerba Buena Bowling Center, at Fourth and Folsom streets, is open Sunday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. until midnight. Adult prices are \$3.50 per game; kids under 12 play for \$2 a game. Shoe rental is \$2 a pair. The 12 lanes can fill up on weekends, so it's best to reserve a lane by calling 415-777-3726.

The Yerba Buena Ice Skating Rink, located at 750 Folsom St., on the rooftop of Moscone Center, is open for public skating Monday through Friday from 1 to 5 p.m. On weekends, public skating is from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and from 3:30 to 5 p.m. There's evening skating starting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. Rates are \$6 for adults, \$4.50 for children 12 and under. Skate rental is \$2.50. Note: It's chilly inside the rink, so bring something warm to wear. Call 415-777-3727 for the scoop.

Zeum, the museum at Yerba Buena Gardens (Fourth and Howard), is open Wednesday through Friday, noon to 6 p.m.; and weekends, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for kids 5 to 18. You can find out more by calling 415-777-2800 or logging on to Zeum's web site at www.zeum.org.

The glass-enclosed **Playland Carousel**, also in Yerba Buena Gardens at Fourth and Howard, operates Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. It's \$1 per ride on the merry-go-round.

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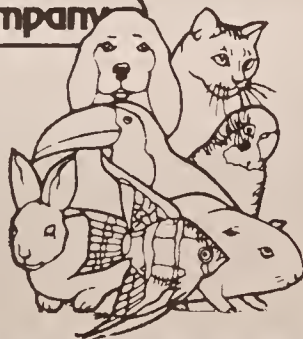
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Photo by Moureen Morrison

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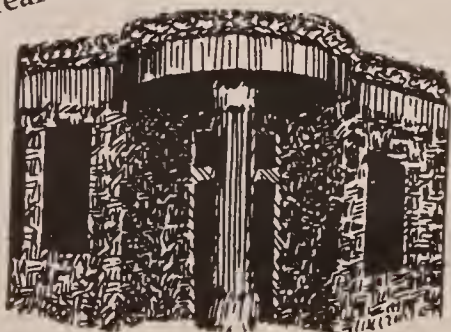
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By Mairé Farrington

Nicholas David Kaliss

These days, if you call the home of baby Nicholas David Kaliss, the answering machine will greet you with the familiar strains of "Tea for Two": *We will raise a family / A boy for you, a girl for me. / Can't you see how happy we will be?*

That pretty much sums up the state of the Kaliss household since Nicholas joined the family on April 16, 1999. A week past his due date, and after 21 hours in labor, Louise Whitlock gave birth to her son via cesarean section. Father Jeff Kaliss, 53, was present at UCSF Medical Center to welcome his son, who arrived at 10:24 p.m. Nicholas tipped the scales at a hearty 8 pounds, 12 ounces, and measured 22 inches long.

"It's funny because my intuition was strong about two children and also about a boy and a girl," says Louise, 41. (The couple's first child, Natalie, 3½, is a former More Mouths feature.) "I don't think I really focused on the order of it. It was more important to Jeff to have a girl first. And then once we had the girl, I knew we were going to have a boy."

Jeff is tickled to have another guy around. "I just like the packaging," he says. "I like the way he is. When I look at Nicholas, I'm looking back to that loving, good-natured, positive side of myself, which I want to see more of," he says.

Nicholas has beautiful slate-blue eyes, and his light brown hair is starting to take on a reddish tinge similar to his mother's. Big for his age at 3 months, "he is already into his 6 to 9 months clothes," says Louise. "His body type is like a mini Jeff. He has shortish legs, a longer torso, and he's got sort of a barrel chest. So he's shaped pretty much like his dad so far."

The similarities between Nicholas and Dad have prompted his babysitter, Sabihah Abdullah, to call him "Jeff Junior." He also bears a resemblance to his grandmother, Edith Whitlock. "His mouth looks like his dad, but his chin looks like my mother," Louise says.

"That chin is unmistakable," Jeff agrees. "And I love my mother-in-law, so when I see Edith in him when I'm looking at him during the day, that's a plus for me."

Nicholas' middle name is after his uncle, David Whitlock, and when he first arrived home, Natalie greeted her brother with another moniker, "Nick'n Babe," soon shortened to "Nick'n." He also answers to "Nick Kaliss, Private Eye," and Jeff likes to call him "Knuckle-as," because of his propensity to suck on his fingers.

Louise describes her son as easy-going and good-natured. "He's an easy baby," she says. "He sleeps well through the night. He wakes up about once and eats something and then goes right back to



The birth of "Nick'n Babe" in April—officially, Nicholas David Kaliss—brought symmetry and joy to the household of Jeff Kaliss, Louise Whitlock, and 3-year-old Natalie.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

sleep." Nicholas will even flash his charming, toothless smile in his sleep. "He's done that for a long time, since not too long after his birth," points out Louise.

"He's very observant," says Dad. "He's been looking at things since he was an hour old. In the nursery, he was looking at everything that was coming in and going out."

In his quest to get a better view, Nicholas is currently learning to sit up. "Whenever you put him flat on his back in his bassinet, he's wanting to rise up," Jeff says, "to be in a position to look around. I noticed the same thing up at the Marin County Fair and when I took him to the Wells Fargo Bank in West Portal. I had him in my arms and he was just looking and smiling at the people behind me in line and they were all cracking up."

Natalie delights in entertaining her brother, and the feeling is mutual, says Jeff. "Nicholas has a special kind of look for her which I think has always been different from the way he looks at Louise or me. He adores her."

Lately, Nicholas has been honing his grasping technique. "He looks like an engineer working on a project. He gets very seriously involved," Dad jokes. "He's got some toys on his swing and a little mobile that hangs down on his car seat, and he'll furrow his brow when he's working on these things. He's got a good grip."

"He's also learning how to become more vocal," Jeff continues. "When he's excited or interested, he'll raise his voice to show that he's excited."

"It's different from crying," Louise notes. "Nicholas will also tend to smile when others laugh, or if his sister cries he might frown and start to cry."

Jeff and Louise met in 1985 at a bar-becue hosted by a mutual friend on Potrero Hill. They were married at the Noe Valley Ministry in 1987, and lived in Noe Valley on Day Street, 20th Street, and Valley Street until 1997. They then bought a house on Hazelwood Avenue in the city's Westwood Highlands District, where they've been pleased to find a number of children Natalie's age, "right on this block and around the corner," says Jeff. "And we hope that there will be more coming who will be Nicholas' age."

Weekday mornings, the family drives Louise to the Glen Park BART Station, where she commutes to her job as an investment manager for Wells Capital Management. Jeff, an entertainment journalist who has contributed stories to the *Noe Valley Voice* for many years, works from his home office. "I have Nicholas in my office all day," he says. "He's either sleeping or smiling at me. If you have to be both writing and changing diapers, it's a good setup."

A regular midday rendezvous with Louise allows Nicholas, who is breastfeeding, to enjoy lunch. Evenings and weekends, Nicholas likes to spend time at the homestead dining with the family or perhaps watching television or videos. And he is happy to run errands in West Portal or Noe Valley in the comfort of his stroller or nestled in his father's arms.

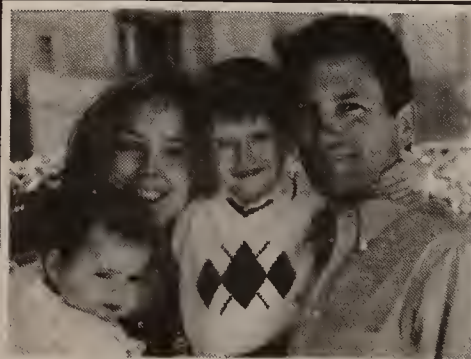
At interview time, plans were under

way for trips to Oregon and Maine, where "we're going to show him off to the relatives," Louise said. "They're tickled to be getting more grandchildren. There's a lot of baby attention in my family. He and Natalie will be constantly picked up and entertained." A trip to Hawaii may also be in the picture for Nicholas, so he can join Mom when she travels for business.

Natalie voiced the sentiments for everyone soon after Nicholas' arrival, proudly announcing, "We're a family."

And Louise and Jeff said they appreciated the sendup they'd received from the old neighborhood. "In Noe Valley, when I take the kids shopping on 24th Street, the merchants who got to know Natalie from the time she was a baby now get a kick out of the fact that she has a little brother. They're getting to know our growing family." □

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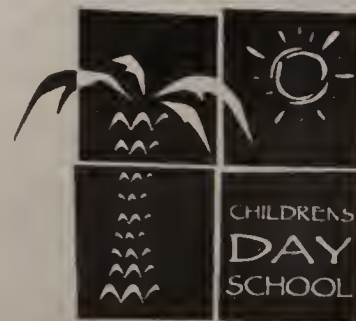
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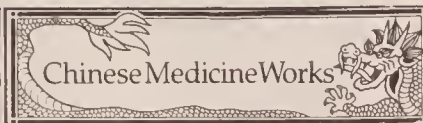
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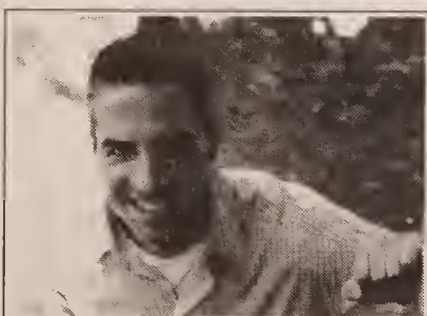
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FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

Some Unforgettable Summers

While everyone in town appears to be rushing off happily to some faraway place, my man Leo and I seem to have lost the urge to leave this pleasant comfortable spot on the map. Perhaps that's because we have such an exciting store of memories to draw upon.

Our thoughts often go back to when we were growing up in the '20s. California was comparatively uncrowded, and there were a variety of lakes, rivers, and seashores not far from the city, with pure water to swim in and sandy beaches to bask on. In those days, it was safe, even enviable, to acquire a tan.

Both Leo and I had the kind of devoted parents who treated us to summer excursions. So naturally, after we met, married, and produced little boys of our own, we followed their example—as soon as the time was right.

That occurred after World War II when we had acquired our dream car, a 1948 wood-paneled Ford station wagon, the last genuine “woody” to be made. (We still have it, up on blocks up in Grass Valley, where our son Jan lives.) This spacious vehicle spurred us to equip ourselves with sleeping bags and camping gear. Then, decked out in Levis and hiking boots, our family of four went exploring.

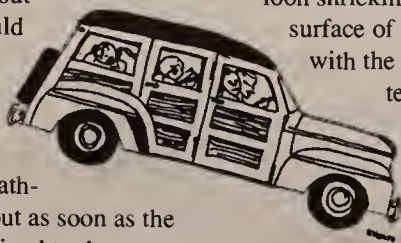
Our sons learned to swim on their own in a single afternoon, in a small backwater adjoining the Yuba River between Marysville and Grass Valley.

On another memorable day, close to the Nevada border, we stopped at a roadside rest to eat our lunch. As we approached the picnic table, we suddenly halted in our tracks, startled by a slithering movement next to an overflowing garbage can. It was a big, fat, patterned snake, perhaps a king snake. We quickly turned to warn the boys, but then heard the car door slam—they were already safely inside and rolling up the windows. We ran to join them and drove off to have our lunch elsewhere.

One weekend we found a camping site in Jackson Meadow in Sierra County. It was a secluded spot where few people ventured, and we enjoyed the silence and nearness to nature—that is, until the wilds of nature came too close for comfort. That night, long after we had crawled into our sleeping bags stretched out on the ground, we were rudely awakened by a shrill bugling and stomping that reverberated throughout the forest.

In the clearing about 30 feet away we could see the cause of the disturbance—a big antlered buck elk proclaiming his territory. We lay breathlessly until he left, but as soon as the sun rose, we felt obliged to depart.

This event spurred us to modify our sleeping arrangements while camping. Leo built a support for inside the woody to hold a sheet of plywood topped by a mattress. The bed snugly accommodated our family—Leo, me, and our young sons Michael and Jan. (Our youngest, Eric, hadn't arrived yet.) And the empty space beneath the plywood provided storage for all of our supplies.



Florence Raids the Pantry: In 1956, the Holub family camped out in their “woody” at French Lake, Sierra County, Calif. Photo by Leo Holub

When the tailgate opened, it became a counter, perfect for serving food!

The woody's “bedroom” and “kitchen” were especially useful when we traveled to higher and colder elevations, such as Lassen National Forest in northernmost California. I remember one trip where we settled into a fine but cold campground near Juniper Lake.

Early in the morning we packed a lunch and set out for the lake, which was a few miles away. It was an easy stroll and we passed only one fisherman, heading in the same direction and carrying a canoe on his back.

We arrived at the lake about lunchtime, so we sat at the water's edge watching a large black and white loon shrieking crazily, flying above the surface of the water. When the man with the canoe arrived, out of courtesy we moved to the far end of the lake. There we admired the huge pastel-colored cone of volcanic ash that jutted out over the water.

When it came time to go, we decided not to return to camp along the same trail, but instead to take “the loop” back, which we thought was about the same distance. But before we had walked very far, the path became a series of hills, up and down, through pines and brush. Nevertheless we plodded on, hiking for hours. About 6 o'clock, it occurred to us that we might be taking

twice as many footsteps as on the earlier trail.

The sun sank in the west as we trudged. Then came twilight, and finally nightfall, and we still had no idea how much farther we had to go. By then it was so dark that we couldn't see the path, so Leo took the lead as we all got down on our hands and knees and began to crawl along blindly, feeling our way along the worn earth.

Our little boys were sturdy and uncomplaining, and we tried to make light of our adventure. Still, the crawling was becoming very tedious when out of the darkness came a voice: “Hello! Are you the lost campers? You look like a family of raccoons!”

It was the park ranger with a flashlight, who had noticed that our family had not returned to the campsite. Fortunately, the man with the canoe had told him that we had taken the long way home. We were rescued!

With his light the ranger led us back to camp, where we happily but wearily collapsed into our sleeping bags in the station wagon and didn't awaken until the sun came up.

Before leaving Lassen Volcanic Park the next day, we climbed up to view the crater, going across a snowfield and up to the smoking peak. There was a handrail to hold onto while we peered down into the crevice, which exuded a vapor of evil-smelling sulfurous gas. Leo and I turned to make sure the boys

were holding onto the rail but discovered that they preferred holding their noses in disgust.

As we left the park we passed a deep blue lake, and although it was summer, the lake was set in a field of gleaming white snow, a beautiful sight.

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Here's a selection of new books at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, graciously provided by the library staff. Besides books and magazines, the branch offers the Noe Valley Archives, two drawers of old issues of the *Noe Valley Voice*, and a peaceful deck and garden to read them in. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; and Saturdays, noon to 6. The branch is located at 451 Jersey St.; 695-5095.

Adult Fiction

◆ In *Murder in the Marais*, a first novel by Noe Valley author Cara Black (*see story, this issue*), a young Parisian detective, hired by a rabbi to decipher an old photograph, becomes involved in solving two Nazi-inspired murders.

◆ *Night Gardening*, by E. L. Swann, portrays an Irish-American widow recovering from a serious illness who forms a restorative friendship with an architect.

◆ Set in Berkeley, California, *The Physics of Sunset*, by Jane Vandenberg, is an exploration of unexpected physical attraction and its consequences.

◆ Ernest Hemingway's last unpublished work, *True at First Light*, is a fictional memoir of his final African safari in 1953.

Adult Nonfiction

◆ *A Border Passage*, by Leila Ahmed, narrates the experiences of a Muslim Cambridge-educated feminist in the contrasting cultures of Egypt, England, and the U.S.

◆ Covering emotions, problem-solving, and effective listening, *Difficult Conversations*, by Douglas Stone, Bruce Patton, and Sheila Heen, shows how to avoid the conversational pitfalls of blame and angry confrontation.

◆ In *1185 Park Avenue*, fiction writer Anne Roiphe, describes what it was like to grow up rich and Jewish in the New York of the 1940s and '50s.

◆ Featuring poems, cartoons, essays, and folk tales, *Honey, Hush*, edited by Daryl C. Dauce, is a rich anthology of African-American women's humor from slavery days to the present.

Annotations by Roberta Greifer

Preschool Story Time

◆ Kids 3 to 5 are invited to the library's preschool story time, starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays Sept. 7, 14, and 21.

Infant and Toddler Lapsits

◆ Mom's and dads should bring their babies for finger play and lullabies to the Wednesday evening lapsits, on Sept. 15, 22, and 29. The music begins at 7 p.m.

Children's Fiction

◆ Two children enjoy delicious food close to its source in *Picnic Farm*, by Christine Morton. Ages 2 to 4.

◆ If you have a range of different feelings about your younger sibling, you'll find a kindred spirit in *Frog Face: My Little Sister and Me*, by John Schindel. Ages 4 to 7.

◆ In *Commander Toad and the Voyage Home*, by Jane Yolen, the crew of the ship *Star Warts* makes a very interesting discovery on an unexplored planet. Ages 5 to 8.

◆ "Chocolate," "Berries on the Bushes," "Forty Performing Bananas," and "Grandma Louise's Gingerbread" are a few of the selections in *Sweets and Treats: Dessert Poems*, compiled by Bobbye S. Goldstein. Ages 6 to 9.

◆ A story from the *Ramayana* concerning love, good and evil, and a great battle is dramatically retold by Erik Jendresen and Joshua M. Greene in *Hanuman: Based on Valmiki's Ramayana*, illustrated with paintings by Li Ming. Ages 7 and up.

◆ When Allie is stuck on a cliff and hears a voice helping her, she becomes involved in an intriguing mystery in *The Ghost of Fossil Glen*, by Cynthia C. DeFelice. Ages 9 and up.

Children's Nonfiction

◆ If you wonder how huge skyscrapers are constructed and supported, *Into the Sky*, by Ryan Hunter, will satisfy your curiosity. Ages 5 to 8.

◆ Robert Ballard, who found the wreck of the Titanic, provides stories about the Titanic and four other ships in *Ghost Liners: Exploring the World's Greatest Lost Ships*. Ages 10 and up.

Annotations by Carol Small

Films for Kids

◆ *Elephants*, *Hot Hippo*, and *Tangram* are among the films for kids 3 to 5 to be shown on Tuesday, Sept. 28, at 10 and 11 a.m.

For other library events, call 557-4400 or visit the San Francisco Public Library's web site at <http://sfpl.lib.ca.us>.

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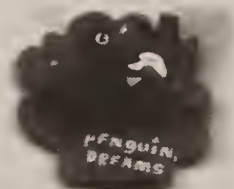
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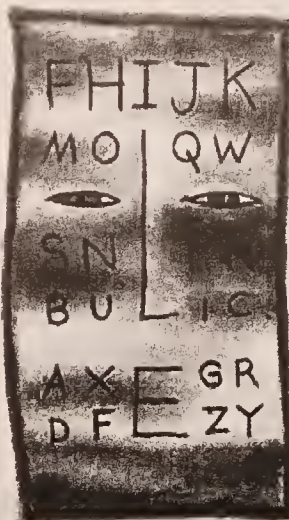
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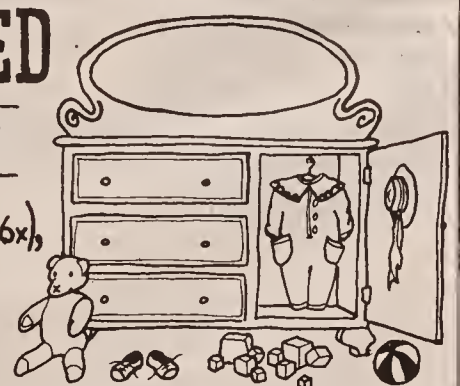
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— Parents' Survey, 1997-98

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MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Advocates for Upper Noe Rec Center
Contact: Greg Clark, 719-8828
Mailing Address: Call Greg Clark for info.
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action
Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association
Contact: Ed White, 774-3237
Mailing Address: First Church of God, 3728 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Last Thursday of month, First Church of God, 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association
Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)
Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Dennis Downing, 647-0937; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m. Call for summer holiday schedule.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association
Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday (except July, August, and December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Contact: Paul Nixon, 647-5183
Mailing Address: 163 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association
Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

La Leche League of San Francisco
Contact: Thalia DeWolf, 641-8366
Mailing Address: 47 Costa St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, Bernal Heights Library, Cortland & Moultrie, 10:15 a.m.

Friends of Glen Canyon Park
Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month, Glen Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m.

Friends of Noe Valley
Contact: Harry Stern, 821-1086, or Bill_Yenne@hotmail.com
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month in Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., and Dec. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:45 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: Julie Dilley, president, 647-7196, jdilley@earthlink.net; Joanna Sacks, vice president, 495-1470, joanna@softmed.com
Mailing Address: 3288 21st St., Box 44, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Executive board meets first Tuesday of month; general meetings quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Courts Coalition
Contact: Dr. Tom Mills, secretary.
Voicemail: 675-0110; nichapin@aol.com.
Mailing Address: Noe Courts Coalition, P.O. Box 460520, San Francisco, CA 94146
Meetings: Irregular. Call for information.

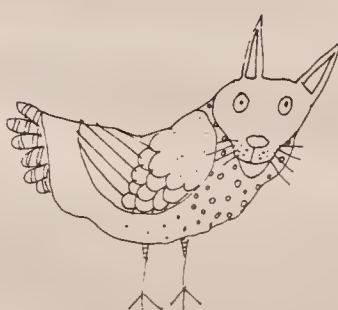
Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
Mailing Address: 1652 Dolores St. #6, San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Second Wednesday of month, 7 p.m. Call for location.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association
Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8692
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Neighborhood Parks Improvement Association
Contact: Debra Niemann, 641-4934, or Krista Keegan, 550-9050
Mailing Address: 4171 23rd St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month, St. Paul's Church cafeteria, 3 p.m. Call to confirm.

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Fourth Thursday of month, Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.



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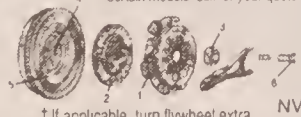
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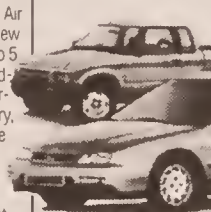
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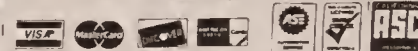
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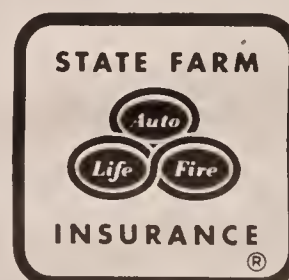
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Put your phone books in with your paper recycling or take them to a drop-off site.* Businesses that do not have mixed paper recycling should call their garbage hauler to make arrangements:

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* For questions or phone book drop-off locations contact the San Francisco Recycling Program at 554-RECYcle.

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Beautiful Wedding Dress. Scoop neck, low back. Simple yet elegant. \$400. Call 282-5111.

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Hot Flash! Midlife Women's Groups in Noe Valley. Meet with women your age, supporting each other through the struggles, challenges, and joys of midlife. We are trailblazers and elders-in-training, redefining what aging means to us. Arlene Dumas, LCSW. 415-641-4553.

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Organic Cotton Baby Quilt. Pieced or appliqued, using 100 percent undyed, unbleached cotton grown without pesticides. 26" x 36". \$250. 255-0566.

The Artist's Way. Is your blocked creative ready to come out and play — with clay, fabric, book arts, found objects, collage? Tag—you're it! 415-206-0760.

Two Great Horses for Lease in Golden Gate Park and Pacifica. Good on trails and arena. Looking for experienced riders. 415-310-3708 or 707-829-3600.

Clown, Professional. Parties, business promos, restaurants, conventions. Face painting by hand or airbrush, balloon sculptures, and storytelling by an adorable clown named Ribbons. She is a certified Early Childhood teacher and a Noe Valley resident! Call or e-mail: SindyP@aol.com, Sindy at 415-401-6622.

Your Cat Could Be a Star! Cat calendar photographer seeking attractive cats in garden settings. Need small sunny floral area for background. Takes one hour. You receive free calendars and pics. 826-8847.

Small Household Repairs and handyperson. No job too small. Have referrals if the job is too large, not to worry. Inexpensive and thorough. Call Suzanne at 282-3301.

Why Can't I Be Happy? Noe Valley psychologist's answer is in the September issue of *Open Exchange*. Elliott Isenberg, Ph.D. 695-0499. www.sirius.com/~eliyahul

Happy Housecleaning. The best you can get for just \$13 an hour. Call us: Sarah or Marco, 415-643-1262. References available.

Your Mother Visiting? House for rent, one to three weeks, \$1,200 per week. Location: Laidley and Noe. Two bedrooms, panoramic views. Huge garden with jacuzzi. Contact Barry, 415-647-8216 or barryz@ncal.verio.com.

Put Your Business on the Web. Do you need a web site for your small business? Looking for affordable, creative designs? 415-647-8366. webtigs@tiger.techs.com.

For Sale: Oak Entertainment Center, \$175. Oak coffee table, \$125. Desk, \$60. Tunturi rowing machine, \$50. SavyZ stroller, \$125. All in almost new condition. 415-641-6199.

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Need Party Favors for your child's next birthday party? Send us your complete name, address, and telephone to POB 31181, San Francisco, CA 94131, or call 415-584-7406 for more information.

Home and Office Cleaning. Experienced, with great references. Reasonable rates. Call Ellie, 415-661-5941.



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Housecleaning and Hauling. Move-in or -out. Carpet cleaning. Garage and yard cleanup. Excellent references. 510-236-2901, Denise or Wesley.

Chandeliers Wanted. Call James Bay Antiques at 621-2116, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Who Are Paul and Judy? They are experts at finding easy and fun ways to make a second income for people. Call today at 415-267-4891.

Yoga of Death & Grieving Workshop. The science of yoga can help us accept our mortality by teaching us how to stay focused on our eternal Self. In this workshop we will examine how the consciousness of our own mortality can enhance our lives and look at methods for coping with the deep pain that comes with the death of a loved one. Tuesday, Sept. 14, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Charlie the Phone Guy. Residence and business telephone systems, fax/modem lines, office-in-home. Dead phone jacks brought back to life! Separate jacks for roommates. Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654.

Web Site Design. We design original sites, including e-commerce shopping sites; make over existing sites; animated banners; local and national publicity campaigns; domain name registrations. Free one-hour phone consultation. Yvonne, HandShake, Ltd. 415-643-2800 or www.hand-shake.com or mail@hand-shake.com.

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Fog City Dog now accepting clients for canine exercise group. Noe Valley resident. Reasonable rates, senior discounts. Bonded. Lou, 824-9374.

Laughing Meditation. This fun workshop involves some Hatha Yoga poses, extended conscious laughter, followed by a silent meditation. Dress for Hatha Yoga, bring a towel, and expect to have a wonderful, fun time. Tuesday, Sept. 21, 6 to 7:30 p.m., \$8. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Stereo Repair: Save time, money! Offering in-home repairs at reasonable rates. Formerly with Pacific Stereo, now serving the San Francisco community for 12 years. Evening and weekend appointments available. Thorough, conscientious, guarantee, references. Gene's Sound Service, 554-3688.

Artists/Performers/Writers at all levels: An ongoing support group, workshops, and individual consultations designed to enhance your creative life are available in Noe Valley. Call Robert Ressler, Ph.D., 415-289-2212.

Tahoe Vacation Rental. Nice five-bedroom, two-bath home at Donner Lake available Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's. 415-641-6199.

Home, Apartment, Office...Cleaning. Excellent references. Offering service seven days a week; you can count on me! Call Val, 415-643-8820.

Carpentry. Decks, windows, design—all aspects. 15 years experience, excellent references. Reasonable and local. Jeffrey, 753-1707.

After-School Creative Program. Six openings for ages 6 and older. Will pick up at school. Katie Glasser, Licensed Family Daycare #384000063, Credentialed Art Teacher. 415-587-6058.

Meeting Someone has never been *this* much fun! The Meeting Game. A new way to meet that special someone! Large salons monthly. 24-hour recorded info: 415-789-7887; www.MeetingGame.com.

Housecleaning Services. Available six days a week. Good references, a lot of experience, and reasonable rates. Please call me: Ana and Andre, 415-643-4924.

Massage House Calls for S.F. Women! Swedish, acupressure, aromatherapy session given in the comfort of your home by experienced, skillful, and caring CMT. I specialize in healing massage for pregnant women and women living with health challenges. \$45 per session; packages and gift certificates available. Call Jeri Ann at 415-431-7585.

The Writing Salon's Fall Session of creative writing classes begins in October. We offer 8- to 10-week courses and Saturday workshops in basic craft, fiction, poetry, essays, memoirs, screenwriting, and journalism. All classes take place in Bernal Heights (near Cortland Avenue). For more information call 415-642-9793 or visit our web site at www.writingsalons.com.

Tuscany Hilltop B&B. Beautifully restored farmhouse in Maremma National Park, delicious local food, beaches, sports, historical tours, cooking... Martine, 415-648-2630.

Want to Take Your Visiting Friends and relatives to offbeat places in S.F.? Visit the Untourist online. It's free, a lot of fun, and a new destination is featured every week. Use AOL keyword "Untourist," or this web address: <http://home.digitalcity.com/sanfrancisco/untourist>.

Short Form of Yang Style T'ai Chi clarified by Sifu Sam Tam. Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Noe Valley Ministry, 2nd floor. For additional information call 821-3525.

Need a Housecleaner? Responsible. Ten years experience, English speaking, California driver's license. References available. Call me! Christy, 650-757-7755.

James Bay Antiques is looking for fine antiques, older style furniture, rugs, jewelry, and unique collectibles to purchase or consign in our new shop. We are at 1649 Market St. across from Zuni Caffe. Please drop by or call us at 621-2116 or 585-1901.

Home and Office Cleaning. Thorough, reliable, professional, and reasonably priced. Excellent references. For more details call Rosanja and Rosana, 415-255-8506.

Psychotherapy. Stable support in times of transition or stress. For more descriptions of what psychotherapy can be, leave your mailing address at 239-1315. Celia Lighthill, MA, MFCC Lic. 27325.

Mommy Express Yourself. Art therapy group for moms now forming: weekly, in Noe Valley, time to be arranged. Facilitated by Jana Silverman, M.A., Art Therapy, M.F.C.C. Intern (#IMF 34464). Supervised by Julie Albert, M.F.C.C. (MFT 28884). 415-773-8124.

One-Eyed Jacks conducts on-premises estate sales. 15 years experience with references. We do it all: appraise it, prepare it, price it, run it, and haul it! Give us a call at 621-4390 or 585-1901.

Housecleaning. Good references, excellent experience. Reasonable prices. Eliza, 650-991-3457.

Counseling: Start Your Healing Journey. Gentle, practical, individual and couples therapy by experienced M.F.C.C. intern. Sliding scale. Free 15-minute phone consultation. Lesbian/gay/bi/straight welcome. Noe Valley. Julie DePinna Armer, M.A., registered M.F.C.C. intern supervised and employed by Cate Potyten, M.F.C.C. Call 415-882-1161.

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Quaint "Victorian Garden" B&B near 26th and Sanchez. Private and ground level, living room, fireplace, bathroom, bedroom with queen-size bed, office nook, flower-filled patio/garden, laundry facilities, phone, sound system, cable TV, plentiful breakfast items. Apartment is lovely and quiet. Two-night minimum. Call 206-0202.

Mac or iMac Computer? Need Help? I can...help you clean up your computer, get your computer talking to your printer and modem, set up e-mail and the web, etc. I am the tech coordinator at an elementary school. Evenings and weekends in your home. 641-7062.

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Kirtan/Chanting. Kirtan is chanting of spiritual mantras, sounds, songs, and names in the Sanskrit language. Accompanied by drums and other rhythm instruments, kirtan is the joyful spiritual path. Friday, Sept. 17, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. By donation. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Fluoride, Chlorine, Cryptosporidium water filtration systems. Sink, full house, and shower. 415-248-1869.

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Expand Your Capacity to resolve life's challenges. Increase your ability to develop gratifying relationships by dismantling self-limiting patterns. I am a responsive, skilled, compassionate therapist committed to your growth. Ann Davidman, M.F.C.C. 415-752-5392.

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Home Heating Specialist. Warm air furnaces, ductwork, chimneys installed, replaced. Problem systems improved, quieted. Fifteen years serving Noe Valley. Licensed. Call Larry Fitzsimmons, 826-0308.

Six-Week Hatha Yoga Class. This class will introduce you to basic yoga postures, breathing practices, and deep relaxation techniques. It will allow for personal attention and in-depth instruction. Tuesdays beginning Sept. 7, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$48. Please register in advance. Call 415-821-1117. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

Gardening. Consultations, design, and renovations. Expert planting, pruning, and maintenance using organic methods. 626-1258.

A Positive View. Counseling, psychotherapy, care management to help people manage eyesight loss. Home visits. Medicare accepted, negotiable fee. (Medicare Provider ZZZ366122, L.C.S.W. 14086.) Call 415-334-1984.

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Furniture Wanted. I need old and antique dressers, tables, desks, etc. Any condition. Paying cash. Karen, 647-6157.

Word Processing (expertise: legal/medical). Audio/ videotape transcription, editing, resumes, and letter composition, including complaint letters. 24-hour phone-in dictation system available. Dena Reiner, 415-821-4661.

Chanting to the Divine Feminine. Join us at the midpoint of Navaratri: 10 days of celebration of the Feminine aspect of the Divine. We will honor Her this night in singing and chanting many of Her infinite names and attributes from various cultures and languages. Friday, Oct. 1, 7:30 to 9 p.m. By donation. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Bed and Breakfast, Noe Valley. 826-1158.

English Lessons (all ages) and tutoring (all subjects) for K-5th grade. Credentialed teacher: Teresa, 415-863-1356.

Carpentry, Ceramic Tile, Drywall, decks, finish carpentry, hardwood floor refinishing, painting. Reasonable prices, good references, free estimates. Call Brad, 627-4065.

Your Nest Egg May Have a Crack. Long-term nursing care for yourself or aging relatives could wipe out a lifetime of savings and create tremendous stress on family members. Medicare does not cover long-term care, and Medicaid will require that you "spend down" your assets. Financial planners and accountants recommend Long Term Care Insurance as the most viable solution. For third-party articles or a free, no pressure consultation, call Bill Hannant at 415-647-7012.

Computer Tutor: One on One. Beginners, join the crowd! Be on the Internet, in "chat rooms," e-mail, or any other computer task. PCs, not Macs. Certified teacher. Noe Valley resident. To "chat" with me, call or e-mail: SindyP@aol.com or Sindy, 415-401-6622.

Housecleaning. Experienced. Excellent references. Own car. \$15/hour. 650-992-0538, Gil.

Reiki — Nurture Your Soul: Heal your self with this gentle, sacred form of hands-on healing. Anke, R.N., Reiki master, Shiatsu massage practitioner. Both practices are strictly nonsexual, and you remain fully clothed. 415-346-4503.

Upholstery. We repair, rebuild, and recover overstuffed chairs, ottomans, sofas, and dining chairs. Free estimates, reasonable rates. Jorge Meraz-Baca, 282-2256.

Hip City Jazz Dance at the Noe Valley Ministry. Tuesdays at 6 p.m. Meet people, learn moves, and be hip! Call Lauren at 282-2782.

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CLASSES

Raja Yoga. Raja Yoga teaches us time-tested and systemic methods of freeing ourselves from stress and anxiety, how to understand one's own mind and how to use it more effectively to live peacefully and joyously. Seven Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 21, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$56. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Relocating? We take the frazzle out of moving. From packing to setup, we handle all the details of your move. Call for a free consultation. ShipShape, 550-0658.

Licensed Painter. Small and large jobs. Interior and exterior. Also plaster repair. Please call Ed at 995-4666. License 497-214. Free estimates.

Vacation Room Rental. Upper Noe Valley. Clean, safe, comfortable. Ideal for visiting family. 415-821-4890.

Trash the Throw-Away Society! Fact: Most non-functioning donations to charitable organizations end up in landfills. Recycle technology will give new life to your unwanted computers, VCRs, faxes, stereos, appliances, et cetera. We also buy, sell, and trade functioning items. Call our shop at 415-282-SHOP (7467), 24 hours. Thanks for respecting our planet.

Studio with View and Parking. Short-term lease. Eureka/Noe Valley. 415-826-1158.

Property Owners! Thinking about remodeling or adding to your building or constructing a new building? Get the creative input your project needs from an experienced architect. Call Mike Hager at 285-7409. In Noe Valley since 1981; 28 years experience.

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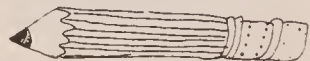
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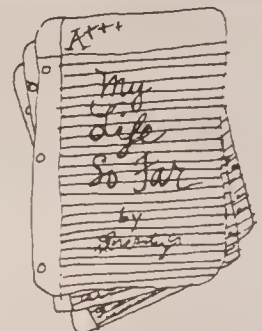
Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15TH OF THE MONTH** before the month you'd like to advertise in. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

10 FOR 10 DISCOUNT: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the October 1999 issue, distributed Sept. 30, 1999. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS SEPT. 15.**

Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail at this time. But there's one consolation: The ads are displayed on our web site at no extra charge: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you. ☐



Words Wanted: The *Noe Valley Voice* welcomes submissions of poems, stories, and essays, particularly those with neighborhood themes. Payment upon publication. Send manuscript and self-addressed, stamped envelope, plus name and phone, to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.



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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

The Building Blocks of News

By Mazook

I WAS OUT OF TOWN on a family vacation recently—in La La Land (where every day is a swimming day)—and more specifically in Legoland (in Carlsbad), which was fun, fun, fun, despite the fertilizer aroma from the adjacent tulip farm.

You're familiar with those colorful Lego blocks, right? Well, the Legoland theme park is an entire town built out of them. (The first Legoland in Billund, Denmark, has 35 million Lego blocks, including a 46-foot-high version of Mt. Rushmore!) But I digress...

I'm very happy to be back home in Noe Valley, even if our town reminds me a little of Legoland: Colorful and fun and lots of building construction going on, with more than a whiff of fertilizer.

Most of the rumors these days are emanating from Upper Noe Valley, where things are changing rapidly on the Church Street commercial strip.

I was stunned by the news that a popular lunch counter, Hungry Joe's, was being sold after a 21-year run on the corner of Church and Day. My sources say that a group of buyers has agreed to purchase both the building and the business from longtime owner Michael Meshkati. They say the asking price was \$838,000. The selling price is still hush-hush.

If the deal goes through, a lot of locals are worried that Hungry Joe's might cease to exist, leaving only one greasy spoon 'round these parts (Herb's on 24th Street).

But, my sources add, perhaps Hungry Joe's devotees won't go away hungry after all, since the buyers might be interested in keeping the biz intact. The new owners are mulling the question "Why fix what ain't broke?" In any case, we should know what's up by Halloween.

☎ ☎ ☎

UP THE STREET, people have been buzzing about the sudden closing of Wong's Cleaners, on Church at Duncan. Buzzing the most were patrons who could see their clothes hanging inside the store, which had been locked up by the San Francisco Sheriff after eviction notices were slapped on the front door in July. The signs for a "Sidewalk Sale" went up in August. I guess anyone with a Wong's claim tag could get their clothes back for free, but ... no ticket, no laundry.

After peering at the Wong's window, I went farther up the street and gazed sadly at the windows of What's for Dessert, which have been covered with newspapers since the cafe closed at the end of July. Owner Mervyn Mark did have a grand closing party, though. *Voice* contributor Alison Pence says she ate the last Chocolate Chewie, a low-fat concoction for which the bakery became famous. Still, Mervyn refused to give up the recipe, saying, "I'm thinking about doing a cookbook. I'll reveal the secret then."

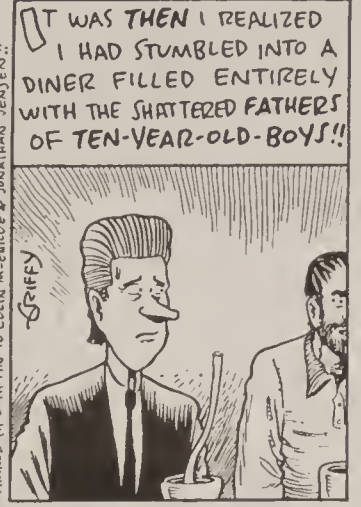
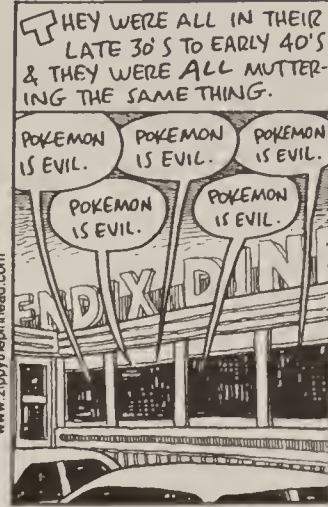
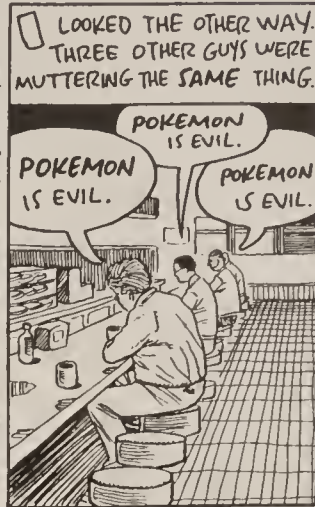
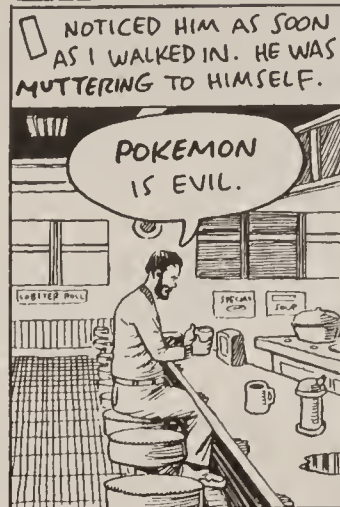
Perhaps the sushi place that's moving in can put Chocolate Chewies on its menu, so we'll always know "what's for dessert" (sorry, I couldn't resist).

☎ ☎ ☎

DREWES MEATS, which has been on Church near 29th Street since 1889, is adapting to its changing surroundings by adding more services.

Owners Josh and Isaac Eppe (who

ZIPPY



Bill Griffith

took over the business and changed the name to Drewes Brothers last year) have hired a new butcher, arranged a knife-sharpening service, and installed a rotisserie in their front window for all you ABC (Already Baked Chicken) fans. Josh says they'll soon be selling hot chicken and pork roast meals for takeout.

"But we still do full-service butchering, kind of like a full-service gas station," he adds.

Things are hopping next door, too: Cafe J will feature live jazz on Tuesday and Friday nights from 7 to 9 p.m., as background music for the dinner crowd.

☎ ☎ ☎

THE UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS are putting on their party shoes and hosting a neighborhood shindig at the Upper Noe Rec Center (both inside and out) on Saturday, Sept. 25, from 1 to 4 p.m. This will mark the first time in over 10 years that the UNN has thrown a bash, which in the olden days verged on being a street fair. "This time," say association president Vicki Rosen, "we're going to keep it very simple and low-key. But everyone in the neighborhood is invited."

Partygoers are encouraged to bring their own picnic and potluck-style fixin's, while the group will supply refreshments, activities for the kids, and music and other entertainment. For those who don't frequent the area, the park is located between Church and Sanchez, and 30th and Day.

☎ ☎ ☎

I WAS SORRY TO LEARN that Ingleside Station's popular police captain, Rick Bruce, has been reassigned to lead the Tactical Company of the SFPD. Ingleside Station, the second largest police district in the city, has jurisdiction south of Cesar Chavez (Army), including Upper Noe Valley, Diamond Heights, Fairmount, and over into Glen Park.

Captain Bruce wrote in a letter to Noe Valley residents: "When I came to this district slightly over two years ago, I began to meet the neighborhood people that I variously considered to be my district constituents, clients, liaisons, and representatives. Today, I think of you simply as old friends." The feeling is mutual.

Replacing Bruce is the able Capt. Marsha Ashe, who was the night supervising captain for the city's entire patrol force. She acknowledges that Bruce's will be a tough act to follow, but is quite excited about her new post.

"People keep telling me, 'You have big shoes to fill,'" says the new captain. "It has become almost a mantra that I have heard in the community meetings I've attended in the three weeks I've been here."

Ashe says she is stopping by various neighborhood and merchant group meetings in the district and is enjoying all of the community contacts established by her predecessor. "I am anxious to meet with the Noe Valley neighborhood groups, and welcome any calls." Those wishing to give her a jingle should dial 553-1603.

☎ ☎ ☎

"TOY STORY"

BACK ON MAIN STREET, the rumor running along 24th Street from Fountain to Fair Oaks was that Bell Market would soon be staying open 24 hours a day.

Not true, according to Bell Market's store manager, Gary Grossetti, who was raised in Noe Valley. "We have not had any intention of going to a 24-hour operation," he says, "and we have no intention of doing so in the future."

One source of the rumor might have been the July newsletter of the Friends of Noe Valley. The FNV published a missive from 24th Street resident Tracey Hughes, who said, "There's even talk of Bell Market going to 24-hour operation." Exactly who was doing that talking wasn't clarified, but Ms. Hughes had plenty to say about "the increasingly serious late-night noise problem along 24th Street."

Passionately discussing the clamor in and around our main drag, Ms. Hughes, a 15-year resident, stated that "Section 29 of the Police Code has not been changed since 1972 to regulate the allowable volume of vehicles or to regulate their hours of operation. This has set the stage for a free-for-all Jurassic Park/Invasion of the

Body Snatchers acoustic hell on earth beginning before dawn."

Hughes goes on to lament, "Noe Valley used to be a quiet neighborhood, but its peacefulness has been destroyed by large corporations, restaurants, and chain stores that seem to cater to people who spend very little time here. There has been a gradual increase in the arrogant disregard for the people who actually live here."

Hughes ends by calling for regulatory legislation to prevent the "mini-mall-ization virus from destroying our right to the quiet enjoyment of life." Here, here.

☎ ☎ ☎

DOWNTOWN NOE VALLEY was also blasted big time in the *Bay Guardian's* recent "Best of the Bay" issue (July 28). Writes the *Guardian*: "As recently as the early 1990s, Noe Valley was a congenially sleepy oasis in the urban mayhem, a cross between a country village and Haight-Ashbury."

"Those days are gone, and then some," the no-byline story continues. "Today,

Continued on Next Page

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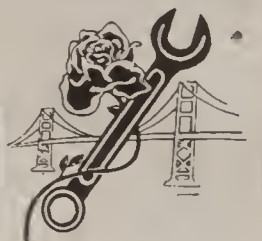
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Trouble Brewing on 29th Street. Uh-oh. Dear Landlord: Wake up and smell the rebellion. No sugar in this tenant order-to-go. Photo by Nojib Joe Hakim

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RUMORS

Continued from Previous Page

24th Street, with its fleet of double-parked trucks and cars (whose drivers have darted into one of the neighborhood's nu-

Boo!

The October Issue deadline for display advertising in the Noe Valley Voice is Sept. 17.

Call Steve now at 239-1114.



Voice Mail

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail to jaxvoice@aol.com. Please include your name, address, and a phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) You can also send us mail via our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com. The web site has current stories and Class Ads, and archives of past issues dating from December 1996.

merous espresso purveyors for a double latte)—and, most astoundingly, sidewalk crowds morning, noon, and night—is barely navigable, whether by car or on foot. It's like Manhattan."

Gee whiz. And I thought Legoland was crowded. Is it really that bad here?

For your information, the *BG* did get around to awarding a few kudos. Its "Best Coffee Bar" in Noe Valley was Martha and Bros. on the corner of Church and Duncan streets. Martha's "is unassuming and agreeably lacking in glitz; it's also considerably less crowded, in the manner of old Noe Valley," sayeth the *Guardian*.

The "Best Bookstore" was Phoenix Books ("leaves the rest of the field in the dust"), and "Best Produce Shop" was Jim and Sons Produce ("nothing fancy, just fresh and cheap").

The *Guardian* even listed "the best place to view the changing Noe Valley skyline," which was, of all places, "the top of the lawn in Noe Courts Park." Hunh?

As all Noe Valleons know, the best place to view the changing Noe Valley skyline is the northeast corner of Douglass Park Playground.

However, don't rush up there today: The park is temporarily closed and will remain so for at least two weeks so that Rec and Park and other workers can take out the 25-year-old splintered wood play structures and replace them with state-of-the-art stuff donated by GameTime. (See story on page 19.)

I can hardly wait for the ribbon-cutting festivities at the playground.



THAT'S 30. Bye, kids, and do well in school. I'm also wishing all you Internet-surfing computer geeks the best of luck on 9/9/99. I'll be back next month to tell you whether that date bodes ill or well for Y2K, plus I'll have the latest aromas wafting around Lego..., I mean Noe-land. ☐

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Flowers in Her Hair

◆ BY DIANA WYNNE ◆

I have never loved a man the way that I have loved San Francisco. Thirteen years ago, in June of '86, I came to this town a tourist. I fell hard. Within two weeks, I had rented a room in a residence club, gotten a job proofreading, and tossed my return ticket to Miami — all before July 4, which I spent at Crissy Field searching for fireworks in the fog.

I was 22 years old, and the city represented all that I might become. After shivering through summer in a fuzzy pink coat from Casual Corner, I broke down and bought a real leather coat. A huge black jacket with a fur collar, it kept me warm like an enduring embrace. Even at half price, it cost a whole month's rent. I wore it daily for 10 years.

Properly clothed, I grew to love the fog in August, the way it curled over Daly City like just another wave from the sea. I loved driving home on the freeway, past ever-growing stacks of condominiums on hillsides in Fairfield and Corte Madera. Walking the aisles of the Alemany Farmers' Market, listening to five or six languages, buying mystery vegetables simply because I had never seen them before, I felt how much I belonged here. In this wonderland, my paisley bell-bottomed jumpsuits, my strident individualism no longer marked me a malcontent. No one even looked twice.

Growing up in Florida, I was always hiding from the sun. Seeing a film with subtitles meant driving to the other end of the county. I visited relatives in New York whenever possible. As each vacation ended, I would sob on the way to the airport because I had to go back to Miami.

But in my mid-20s, flying home to San Francisco, circling Mt. Tam and the Bay like a shorebird, I'd feel the relief of knowing that the Bay Area was superior to wherever I had come from.

Later, that same smugness began to imprison me. It kept me from considering living elsewhere. There was so much I loved here: salsa dancing Sunday afternoons on the patio at El Rio. Blocks of pristine Victorians on dead-end streets in up-and-coming neighborhoods. The ongoing drama provided by the Board of Supervisors. The blanket permission San Francisco gave to be resolutely myself.

And yet I had begun to tire of its eccentricities, which the city wore like a badge of honor. I'd seen too many bad dye jobs, too many unspeakable piercings. My Honda was 18 inches too long to squeeze between driveways. I'd spent 10 long years talking about traffic. I had seen too many people, all

trying to be different in exactly the same way.

And I worried: If I stayed here, would no one else ever love me? It was as if the city held a possessive grip on me. I

should have put down roots. I should have bought that house on Henry Street, even though it needed a new roof, even though the man I was going to buy it with no longer spoke to me. I should have joined a neighborhood association or bought a Jack Russell terrier. But something held me back from making that kind of commitment.

Now, in order to be able to afford living here, I worked so much I never had time to do any of the things I lived here for. I could tell you which bands were playing at what dance parties and when the film festival tickets went on sale. I knew when Opera in the Park was and which restaurants served the best *ahi carpaccio*. But I didn't have time to go there. My sportscar had less than 20,000 miles on it. I left my apartment only to go to work or leave the country.

So two years ago I quit my high-tech job, to find out who those people filling cafes at 11 a.m. were, to rediscover my relationship to my first love.

At first I relished my freedom. After years of deprivation, I drove to the Castro and North Beach in the middle of the day and parked effortlessly. I walked on Ocean Beach, marveling at huge winter crests, driftwood the size of telephone poles. I visited a different cafe every day. But the people sipping chai lattes at the next table dis-

cussed their web sites. The tarot card reader ran a multimedia business on the side. Work had become inescapable.

1998 began with 60 days and nights of rain. During that time, I did not leave the safety of my living room, except to go to the library and take out books like *Best Places to Live in the USA*. I did all the quizzes, suspecting that perhaps, after all this time, I had outgrown my city.

In the daily downpour, dressed in matching gold raincoat and umbrella, I sensed that San Francisco had ceased to love me. Friends stayed home to sulk, or feed infants. I, in turn, sent away for brochures on cruising the Panama Canal and teaching business skills to Polish entrepreneurs. Perhaps another city was the answer. I had reached that stage in my love affair with San Francisco where only distance made the heart grow fonder.

I bought a Eurail pass and headed east, fascinated by the citizens of European capitals who dressed so much better than people at home. I visited expatriate friends and examined their lives. One woman spent the entire weekend talking about her job at a German software company, and how stressed she was because she had so little free time when stores were open. Her friends all worked at the same company.

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In Switzerland, the familiar notes of "If you come to San Francisco" played on a store stereo, and I felt a guilty pang, flirting with other cities. Did I really intend to take up residence abroad?



Illustration by Karol Barske

In Amsterdam I met professional people who worked four days a week, vacationing for months at a time. I sat at a cafe on a weekday and listened to a free concert. On that 70-degree day, the Dutch appeared en masse, dressed in shorts and tank tops, legs dangling from apartment windows over the canals. They were so relaxed, it made me long to be Dutch. But then I faced the truth: Blond and leggy I was not. I hated pickled herring. I would always be an outsider here.

Suddenly I wanted to go home.

Recently I had my black leather coat re-lined. The style seemed dated, but I couldn't waste such good leather. I forgot to have the shoulder pads removed, though, so wearing it made me feel like Jerry Rice. I'd outgrown that coat. But I could not part with it, just as I cannot let go of this captivating town, and my uneasy life within its confines.

I have loved San Francisco, as I have loved no person or place in my lifetime.

And in return, San Francisco has loved me ... like a man. ◆

Diana Wynne has lived in Noe Valley for the past 10 years. A product management consultant to Internet startups, she is finishing a book of creative nonfiction, titled *Opals & Oysters*.



Photo by Pamela Gerard

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